

GROUND-HOPPER Magazine



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THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR THE INDEPENDENT NON-LEAGUE TRAVELLER!

INSIDE THIS MONTH'S 44-PAGE ISSUE

- * SPECIAL FEATURES ON LISKEARD ATHLETIC, FOLKESTONE TOWN & NORTHWICH VICTORIA * GROUNDHOPPING IN THE DEVON & EXETER LEAGUE * FOUR CLUB SHOPS REVIEWED
- * PHOTO SPECIAL - THE FOUR SIDES OF...ACCRINGTON STANLEY * ST. JOHNSTONE MOVE GROUNDS * LETTERS
- * TONY MIDDLETON IN RUSSIA * BADGE & PROGRAMME NEWS

GROUND-HOPPER Magazine

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THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR THE INDEPENDENT NON-LEAGUE TRAVELLER

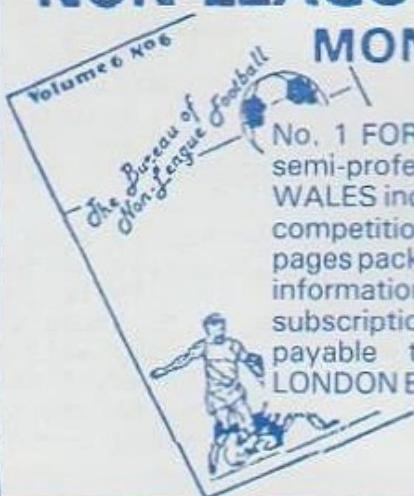
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NEXT ISSUE:**COPY DEADLINE:**
Mon. 15th May.**PUBLICATION:**
Tue. 30th May.**GROUNDHOPPER'S VIEWPOINT**with
STEVE KING

It is always a sad occasion when a club hits rock bottom and are forced out of business due to financial difficulties as a result of small crowds and poor results, and thankfully it doesn't happen that often. But when it does, there is enormous sympathy for everyone connected with that particular club, especially the supporters who have followed them through the good and bad times, and for those with long associations with the club, it must be particularly sad.

A month ago, the latest club to go under were Newport County, and this magazine is saddened by their rapid decline from a club battling it's way to a major European semi-final to a non-league outfit going out of business in just a few short years. If ever there was a lesson to be learnt from this story, this is it. No club should ever take success for granted, because football can be such a cruel game and any success that comes along should be cherished, savoured because, as Newport County have so graphically illustrated, you just do not know what is around the corner.

Perhaps looking at it at the other end of the scale, Wimbledon's extraordinary rise in such a short period of time also illustrates perfectly what can be achieved by hard work, effort and organisation. Their success is frowned upon by many of the 'purists' who see their style of football as excessively aggressive and lacking sophistication and style. That may well be true to a certain extent, but there will never be anything again to match their progress, and they have enjoyed their rise from non-league obscurity to one of the top clubs in the country despite a severe hate campaign by the media bordering on the outrageous, and why shouldn't they?

But for every success story such as Wimbledon's, there is a heart-breaking tale of desperation and despair such as that which has forced Newport County out of business.

Other clubs will be folding at the end of the season for financial reasons, and they will also have supporters with memories of the good times, but they will get little coverage compared with Newport's problems. However, these clubs may be closing down, but we should not forget them either because whether it is Newport County or a local village team, if YOU supported them and they go out of existence, it is a great chunk taken out of your life.

The memories can never be erased, but they will always be tinged with sadness at what might have been. If there are supporters of Newport County (or any club that has gone out of business) reading this magazine, all we can do is offer our sympathy. Hopefully, the only good thing that may come out of this is that other clubs learn from Newport's mistakes and make sure they never get into the same situation. But then again, that is little consolation to Newport County is it?



NEWSDESK

COMPILED BY STEVE KING



The largest soccer tournament ever staged by a non-league club, and a change to limited company status, are planned to revive the fortunes of struggling Great Mills League side Warminster Town. The pre-season tournament involving several Football League clubs including Merseyside giants Everton, will be run over two week-ends at the end of July and beginning of August. Officials of the club reckon the tournament should bring in a clear profit of around £40,000.

And they are now also taking legal advice on turning the club into a limited company. That would involve a share issue, which officials hope would raise many thousands of pounds. They want to turn the club upside down and make it one of the most successful non-league outfits in the country.

Bristol Rovers, Notts County, Exeter City, Cardiff City, Darlington and Cheltenham have accepted invitations to take part in the tournament over the week-end of July 22 and 23. Everton, Crystal Palace, Brighton, Ipswich, Manchester City and Cardiff have agreed to send teams to compete in the second tournament on the week-end of August 5 and 6. It is expected to cost £30,000 to stage, and games will be 30 minutes each way. The August tournament opens with an evening game on Friday 4th against Ipswich, which is likely to be all-ticket.

Ambitious Warminster have also announced a big programme of ground improvements and during the summer, new drains will be put under the pitch, the stand will be refurbished, new

SPECIAL NOTICE
A.T.S. Lancs. Trophy Final
In common with all other County Cup
finals this season the above game will be
played under experimental rules, with each
half consisting of 50 minutes. If the teams
are level after 100 minutes, extra time will
be played, and if the deadlock is still
unbroken there will be no penalty shoot-
out. Instead there will be a sudden death
situation in which the next team to score
will be deemed the winner.
By Order of Football Association Rule
AF 1/4/89

terracing provided and a directors' box built. Club officials are also meeting landlords, West Wilts District Council with a view to extending the present lease for another 21 years....vandals have caused a considerable amount of damage at Hornchurch who have been forced to shut their Club Shop until next season due to fire....The recent Chorley v. Kidderminster match programme had the following special notice (see left) which may have fooled quite a few people until they realised it was 1st April at the time.....Talking of April Fools jokes, on the same date, an amusing thing happened at the Great Mills Premier Division clash between the top two

teams Exmouth Town and Saltash United. It was announced on the tannoy that Exmouth Town, after lengthy talks had just clinched a £250,000 sponsorship deal with (wait for it) Sheik Abdulla Faisel of the United Arab Emirates, and a dark skinned gentleman paraded the centre spot with Geoff Morris (Secretary). The dark gentleman even more sandals and arab costume and was introduced to the crowd as the Sheiks son, Omar. It was announced in the programme that the money would be used to build a new grandstand, clubhouse, terracing, etc, and there was an appeal for ideas on how best the money could be utilised. And who says football folk don't have a sense of humour?....Stapenhill from the Leics Senior have been accepted into the Premier Division of the Midland Combination for next season....Dave Twydell is investigating the idea of arranging a 10-day football orientated tour of Albania. Departure would be either Autumn 1989 or Spring 1990. The basic itinerary would be to visit most, if not all, First Division grounds (and several second), attend one or two matches + other highlights. Tour will include air travel, meals, hotel, coach travel, etc and will be approximately £400. For further details send SAE to Dave Twydell, 12 The Furrows, Harefield, Middx, UB9 6AT....Tavistock are considering erecting floodlights and their South Western League counterparts St. Blazey, Millbrook, and St. Austell are also considering lighting up for next season....vandals have caused considerable damage at Welton Rovers, and an undisclosed amount of goods have been stolen....The recent VOL match between Ruislip Manor and Finchley was called off at the last minute by the referee who complained that there were too many ruts in the pitch which made it unsafe....Walton & Hersham are arranging a summer schedule of ground improvements....Shepshed Charterhouse are this season issuing an enormous A4 size programme for 1st team games....Penzance entertain Plymouth Argyle in a pre-season friendly on 9th August....Leytonstone & Ilford are to receive an estimate for the enormous amount of work needed should they gain promotion to the GM Vauxhall Conference. Second-placed Farnborough Town have already announced plans to improve their ground....Bass NW Counties League club Ashton United have designed a programme of ground improvements that are being introduced ready for next season. These include building a new stand, new drainage, and a new perimeter wall....

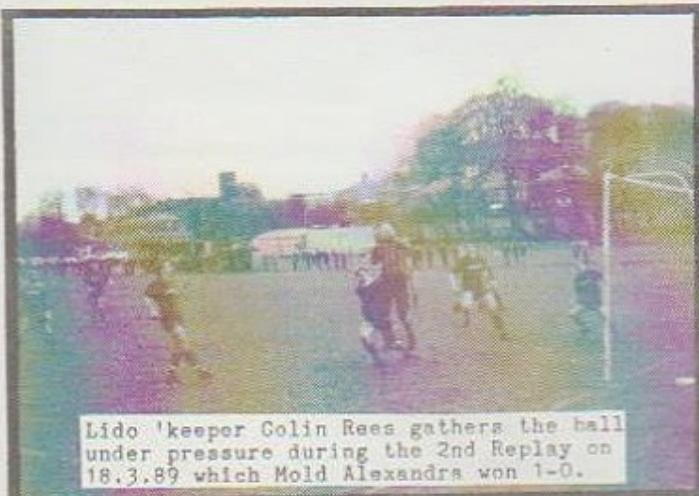
WELSH RABBIT

All the latest news and gossip from the Welsh non-league scene with David Collins



For five consecutive Saturdays in February and March, AFAN LIDO and MOLD ALEXANDRA were engaged in a marathon Welsh Intermediate Cup Quarter Final; this month I'm featuring the matches and the clubs' involved in this epic North v. South Wales battle.

The draw paired the two clubs at Afan Lido's seaside ground in mid-February but the monsoon conditions meant that they didn't get round to meeting on the pitch until March 4th. Despite heavy conditions, the two sides produced a highly competitive and well balanced game, Mold feeling they had done enough to win but consoled by the prospect of a home replay after the 2-2 draw. The first replay ended 2-2 as well, Lido having actually taken an extra-time lead, the only time they led throughout the tie. Mold won the toss and Lido travelled to North Wales again the next week to do battle. I use the word battle advisedly, for by now vendettas were getting underway and both sides seemed determined to settle the tie this time - Mold in particular were taking no prisoners. After a flurry of yellow cards, the referee had to call all 22 players to the centre circle for a lecture! In between the feuding some fine football was played and Mold's territorial advantage was rewarded with the lone goal of the match in the second half, scored by Vernon Keep who found the net in every game. Lido could only speculate that it might all have been so different if they hadn't wasted a penalty just before the winner was scored.



Lido 'keeper Colin Rees gathers the ball under pressure during the 2nd Replay on 18.3.89 which Mold Alexandra won 1-0.



Welsh Intermediate Cup Quarter-Final:
Afan Lido v. Mold Alexandra 2-2 4.3.89

These matches were always gripping, a credit to Welsh soccer even allowing for the rough stuff, and proof that two successful sides at any level will provide good entertainment.

AFAN LIDO, the 1987-88 Abacus Premier champions, are 21 years old this season and are based at the Afan Lido sports centre on Aberavon sea front, about half a mile from Port Talbot Athletic's ground. The ground lacks the amenities - cover in particular - to progress to the National Division, but Lido are thriving and ambitious and have plans to erect a stand and clubhouse and to enclose the ground. They await council reaction and it is to be hoped that these plans can become reality.

MOLD ALEX are one of the most successful clubs in North-East Wales, runners-up to Lex XI in the TIB Wrexham Area League in 1987-88, having been champions for the previous two seasons. Their Alyn Park ground is on the road to Denbigh, a five minute walk from the bus station. Mold is served by frequent buses from both Chester and Wrexham. The ground itself has a small area of covered standing and an excellent clubhouse "The Alex Club"; they are obviously well supported and I was impressed with the amount of support they had at Aberavon, considering it is an 8 hour round trip.

One week after finally getting the better of Afan Lido, Mold lost in the semi-final to hot favourites Aberystwyth Town, 3-0.

It was encouraging to see that all these games were reported in the new Welsh Sunday newspaper "Wales on Sunday", which is regularly devoting one page to non-league reports in its various regional editions. *Cont'd on page 13.*

Liskeard Athletic - the Cornish experience!

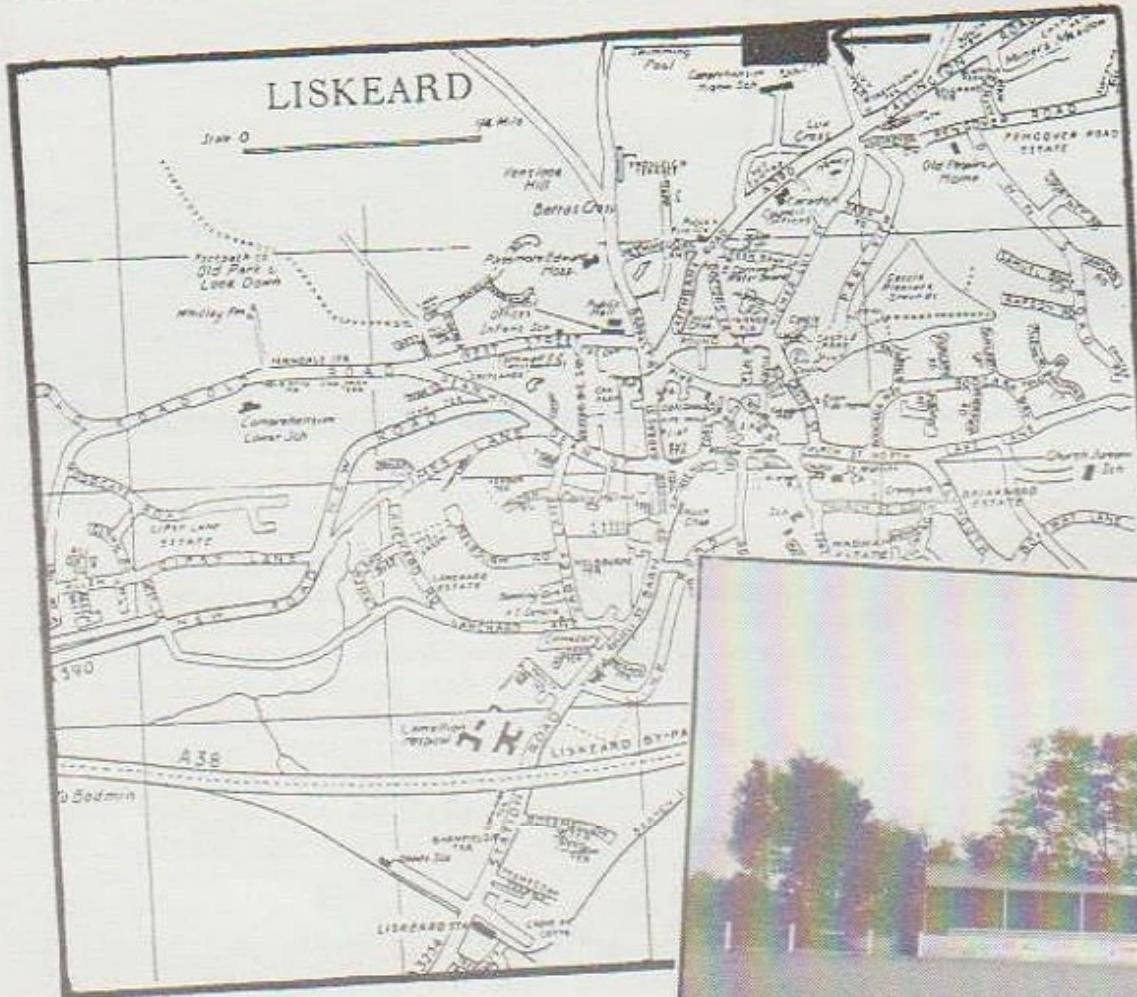
Liskeard Athletic play in the Great Mills League Premier Division. The ground, Lux Park, is on the outskirts of the northern side of the town and is about a mile from the station. By road it is just off the A38 from Exeter and about half an hour from Plymouth. The ground is on the B3254 and there is ample car parking space by the swimming pool on the way to the main entrance.

Liskeard is fortunate to have a very good rail link to London (Paddington) and the north via Bristol. All trains stop here with a variety of services before and after the game. The Cornish Riviera gets down here in 3½ hours. The kick-off for all Saturday games is at 3pm and 7.45pm normally for midweek games, although visiting sides sometimes request a 7.30pm start.

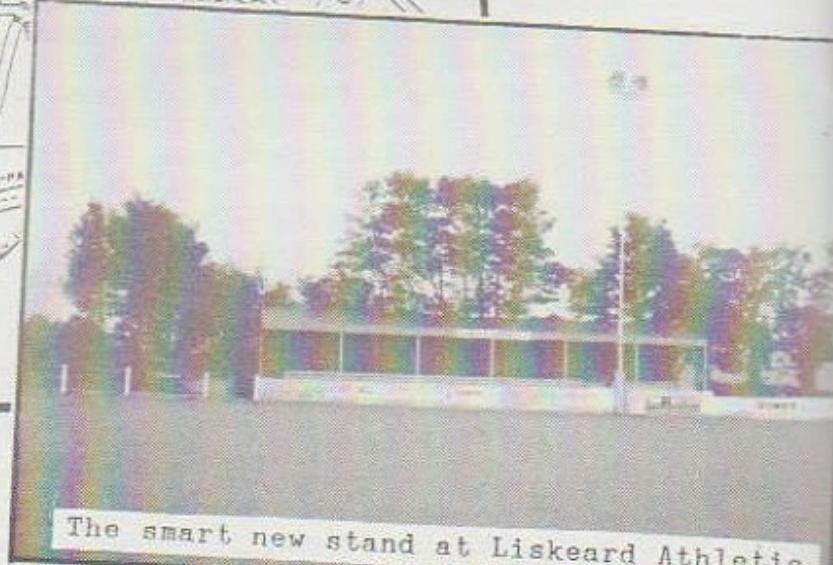
The picturesque seaside resort of Looe is only about seven miles away, and there is plenty of accommodation here to make a week-end, or overnight stop very attractive. Sometimes it is possible to take in a game at Kimberley Stadium, Saltash as well.

The ground is part of a sports complex, cricket, rugby and hockey all being played nearby. But the football ground is totally enclosed and an entity on its own. Football has been played at Lux Park since 1922 and the club has progressed from Plymouth and District League football to become champions of the Great Mills League last season, although they look like losing out this season.

The ground has been much developed over the years. There is a very good playing pitch with a gentle slope to the clubhouse end. In winter the ground is subject to Atlantic gales as it is on high ground. These weakened the old stand and this had to be demolished. A splendid new stand has been built, and this was



*
BY TED
BROWN
*

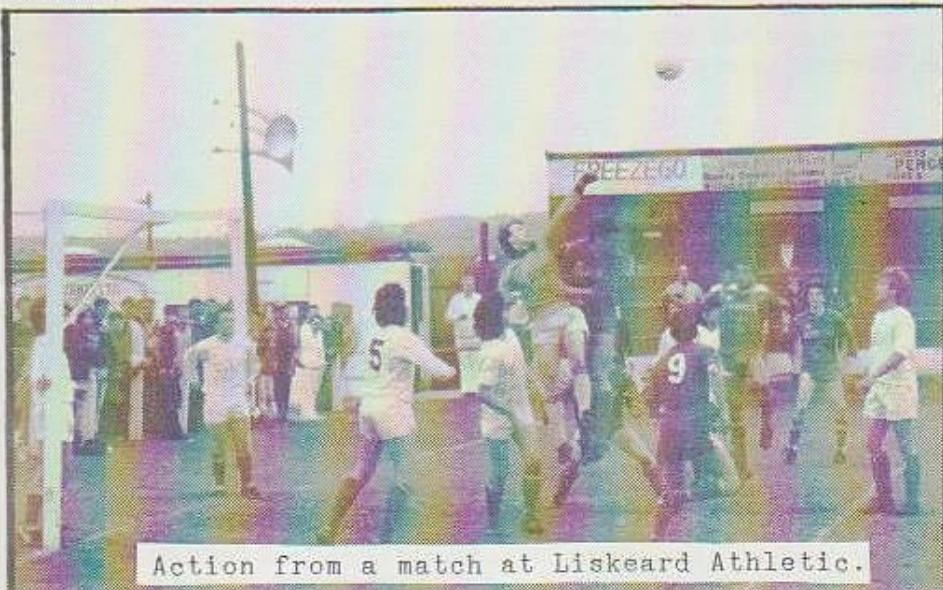


The smart new stand at Liskeard Athletic.

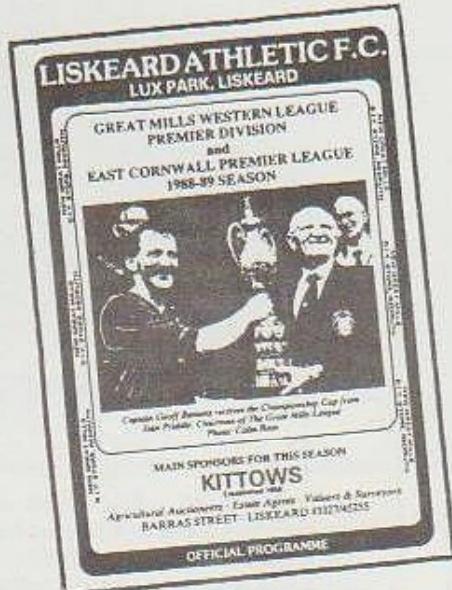
FEATURE ON LISKEARD ATHLETIC (from page 6)

opened at the start of the season, and cost in excess of £16,000, with another £8,000 spent on upgrading the floodlights. There is covered standing on the northern side, opposite to the stand, and firm standing down this side. A top boundary fence has been constructed and a new entrance has been made from the dressing rooms to the pitch.

The clubhouse is large and food available on match days. The clubhouse serves the complex but the football club has its own private bar. There is a spacious refreshment room on the ground owned by the club which serves hot drinks and food before the game, and at half time. Here you can get real Cornish Pasties! A new-look programme at 20p is available this season, with a glossy cover in the club colours of blue and white. The Reserve Team play in the East Cornwall League.



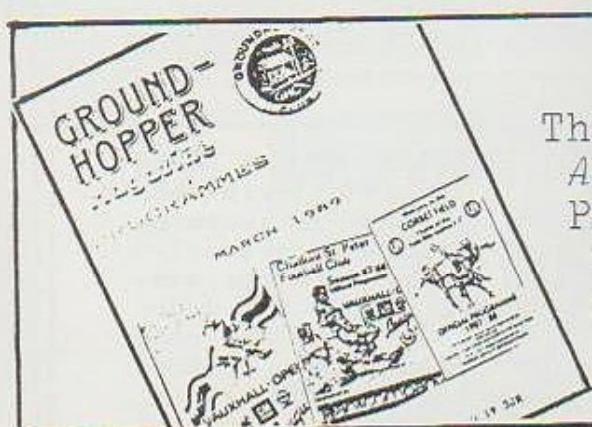
Action from a match at Liskeard Athletic.



Athletic finished second to Exmouth Town in 1985-86, losing the title by just one point on the last Saturday of the season. They then finished fourth in 1986-87 and clinched the League Championship Cup last season with a lead of eight points over their rivals Saltash United. The two Cornish clubs finished ahead of a strong league of 22 clubs which included Bristol City Res, Plymouth Argyle Res, Taunton Town, Minehead, Exmouth Town, etc, which was a fine achievement. Football is well covered for the area by The Cornish Times, Western Morning News and especially by The Evening Herald (Plymouth).

Groundhoppers can be sure of a good welcome at any time and information can be had from the Secretary, Adrian Wilton, 'Martina', Dawes Close, Dobwalls, Liskeard, Cornwall, PL14 6JD. Phone Dobwalls 20657. Programmes are issued for all games.

At the start of next season, it is hoped to have a history of 100 years of Liskeard Athletic published. This book is being compiled by Club President, Ted Brown

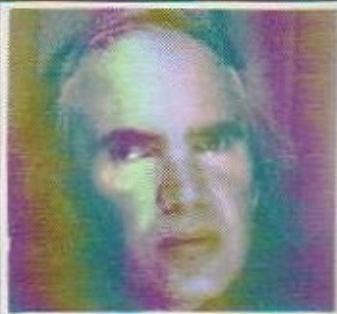


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The **TONY MIDDLETON** Column

THE MONTHLY COLUMN FOR ALL HOPPERS



CHOBA B CCCP

The cry went up, Send Chris Ashbridge to Siberia. I didn't wait to see where they would send me, so I made for Outer Mongolia. To Alma Ata, 200 miles from the Mongolian border, in Kazakstan. The trip was for ice speedway, not football, but I managed to take in a few grounds during the course of the journey.

First stop was Moscow, where, thanks to the combined efforts of Aeroflot and Intourist, we arrived four hours late, having landed at the wrong airport. This was the only low point. We went with Tee Mill Tours, a leading tour operator who are shortly to be moving into the football market, and it was a great chance to access their capabilities. Their own representative was an Arthur Daley like character with a Brummie accent, known as Delboy Dave, whose money making antics were at times OTT.

During our stay in Moscow we had the obligatory tour of the city, plus the Kremlin, and photoes simply do not do it justice. We were able to get a close look at both the Dynamo and the Torpedo stadiums. The latter was disappointing, as it looked like an English ground from the 1930's, but the former was just part of a much larger complex, with incredible banks of floodlights, 200 bulbs to each pylon. The Olympic Stadium is on the fringe of the city centre, is fully covered, seats 45,000, and is just a small part of a giant sports complex.



The 103,000 seat Lenin Stadium, home of Spartak & CSKA.

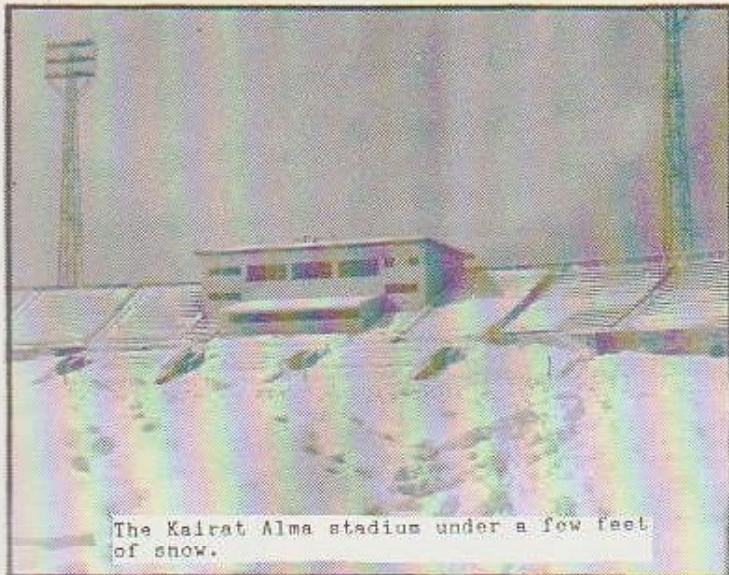


Kairat Alma on the opening day of the season.

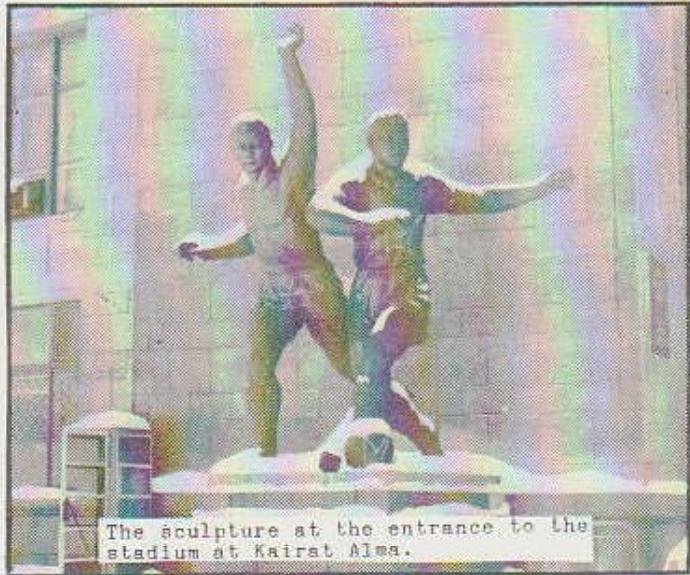
There are 68 stadiums in Moscow, and the showpiece is the Lenin Stadium, home of both Spartak and CSKA. This defies description, for it holds 103,000, all seated. Under the stadium are swimming pools and several gymnasiums. Alongside there is a smaller stadium, used for volleyball, which seats 10,000, and in the same complex is the Sports Palace, seating 15,000, completely under cover, and this is used primarily for ice hockey. Two all-year outdoor swimming pools add to the splendour, whilst yet another fully enclosed stadium holds 3,900 and is used for indoor sports. The whole complex is bounded by a river, and lies at the foot of the Lenin Heights, and it is overlooked by a massive ski jump. From the top of the Heights you get a panoramic view of the entire city.

The weather turned to blizzard conditions on the final day, but when we got off the plane in Tashkent five hours after leaving Moscow we were greeted by spring temperatures. Tashkent was totally destroyed by earthquake in 1966, and has now been completely rebuilt. The football stadium is no exception, another gigantic structure, topped with bank after bank of floodlights.

After a sortie around the Asianesque market we flew to Alma Ata, in the Himalayas, to be greeted by several feet of snow and a minus 13 temperature. Bright blue skies and strong sunshine made



The Kairat Alma stadium under a few feet of snow.



The sculpture at the entrance to the stadium at Kairat Alma.

it feel a lot warmer the next morning, and we made our way out to Kairat Alma Ata's ground, which once again was just a small part of a large complex. It holds 30,000, all seated, and all in the open. It was the start of the football season, but the snow lay deep over the pitch. The Kairat team were training on the running track around the pitch, and proved to be a very friendly bunch. An all-year open air swimming pool is alongside, together with numerous other facilities.

And where was our Delboy amid all this. He was in his element, and loved every minute, flogging his own badges and other junk to the locals. (In between flogging us anything he couldn't offload, that is.) Would I recommend Tee Mill for a football trip. Yes I would.

And so to the main point of the trip, the ice speedway. The Medeo stadium is 5,000 feet up in the mountains, and holds 11,000, all seated. It was packed to capacity, and thousands more lined the mountainside. Admission was 4.50 rubles (£4.50 at the official rate of exchange.) Programmes were 1 ruble each. Badges were easily obtained for 26 kopecs each (26p.) In the background, just over the mountains, lay Mongolia. What's that I hear, why didn't I stay there.



The 100,000 seater Olympic Stadium in Moscow.

CONT'D
ON PAGE
11.

GOOD CRIEFF! SAINTS SELL UP

by Colin Peel

Almost exactly a year ago, I wrote a piece on Scunthorpe United's relocation to the brand new Glanford Park Stadium. 1989 sees another major club move to a purpose-built stadium, but this time it's in Scotland.

Perth is the venue, where First Division St. Johnstone have sold Muirton Park to supermarket chain ASDA, who have also been involved in protracted negotiations for a plot at Molineux in Wolverhampton, for a sum of around £5 million.

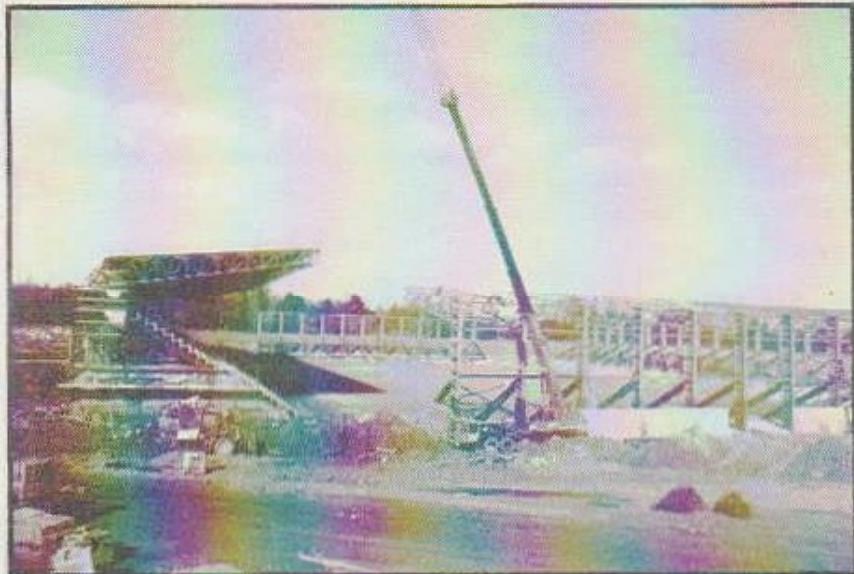
The new stadium for St. Johnstone, which is costing around £4 million, is named McDIARMID PARK, after the farmer who sold the land to St. Johnstone at well below market value. To get to the Saints' new home, you nip over to the ground of Jeanfield Swifts (Tayside Junior League) and then continue about two miles up the A85 towards Crieff.

McDiarmid Park is just off the Crieff Road at the junction of the A85 and the new Perth by-pass. Co-incidentally, it has a supermarket for a neighbour and is fortunately well-served by bus from the City centre.

The new ground was featured on BBC TV's Breakfast Time programme as part of a feature on St. Johnstone's build-up to their important Scottish FA Cup Semi-Final which was played recently. There were several shots of the new ground being built, as well as an interview with the manager from the current ground at Muirton Park.

RIGHT:

Muirton Park -
main stand.
A traditional
structure shortly
to be supplanted
by a tacky ASDA
store.



LEFT:

McDiarmid Park -
will the new
stadium, built on a
farmer's former land
prove to be a fertile
ground for St. John-
stone?

PHOTOS BY COLIN PEEL

A poster in the Muirton Park social club proclaims the opening of Saints' present home, when Queens Park were the visitors on 25th December 1924, and it must be said that Muirton shows its age. In 1952, almost 30,000 squeezed in for a record gate, but the capacity now stands at 11,500.

Architecturally, Muirton is unremarkable, but it offers the spectator mobility and somewhere to stand, two things that the new ground will not offer. St. Johnstone have gone for Ibrox as a role-model, having four distinct stands and gaps in the corners. Capacity will be about 11,000 and, controversially, McDiarmid Park will become Scotland's fourth all-seater ground after Pittodrie, Kilbowie and Meadowbank. I can't see all Saints' supporters taking to this idea, especially seeing as a big majority of fans like to stand at present. But neither is the new development likely to lose St. Johnstone any support - gates have been increasing over the last two years anyway, but the new stadium might offer the right level of comfort for people to keep coming even if the team has a bad season. All the stands are to have cantilevered canopies, and at the time of my visit (March 1989) the seating decks were being laid on the steel frame of the Main Stand (see photo). There still seems to be a great deal of work to be done to get the stadium operational for August, especially on the pitch, but it promises to be one of the best venues in Scottish football.

There appears to have been almost no protest against the move amongst the supporters. Muirton is a rather mediocre venue, but one cannot yet tell whether the spanking new all-seated McDiarmid Park will be the answer to St. Johnstone's problems. Can the Saints work a miracle?

THE TONY MIDDLETON COLUMN (from page 9)

BADGES AND DEALERS- RUSSIAN STYLE.

The Moscow metro is an amazing place. It is ornate, marbled, and each station is a work of art. Chandeliers and sculptures are everywhere, and for 5 kopecs (5p) you can go anywhere you like. Under the subways leading to the stations there is an entire sub-culture. You name it, and you can probably get it. But first you have to run the gauntlet the moment you set foot outside the hotel. You will be mobbed by scores of kids, aged anything up to 15, who will thrust badges at you from all angles, and demand bubble gum and cigarettes in exchange. If you can force your way through the seething throng, you will eventually find small kiosks almost everywhere, with badges on sale, usually between 10 and 26 kopecs each (up to 26p at the official rate of exchange.)

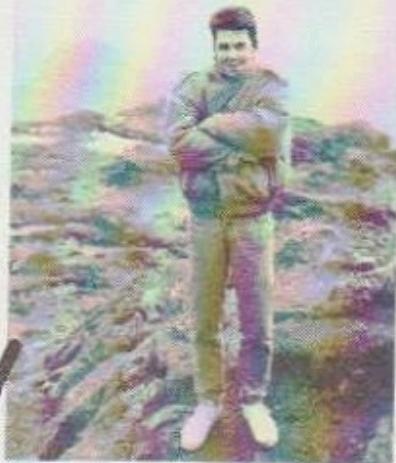
Keep on going, into the underground, and, if you can avoid the more adult sellers of goods, and if you can force your way onto a sardine-packed train, you will eventually arrive at Gum, the state owned department store alongside the Kremlin. In you go, try and ignore the many approaches you will get for this that and the other, and inside Gum you will find the biggest badge shop you have ever seen. Prices are ridiculously low, and you can get just about any badge you want. To be absolutely truthful you get sick of the sight of so many badges, and it quite put me off collecting foreign badges, to realise that here you could get anything and everything for just a few kopecs.

The trip also gave me the chance to see how dealers worked. We had one with us, a supplier of ice hockey souvenirs, whose one aim was to get as much as he could, and take it back to England to sell at what I can only call exorbitant prices. He was really in his element with the badges. For just 40p a set, he bought some magnificent ice hockey badges, which he told me he would have no trouble in selling at £20 each. He bought pennants by the score, for a few pence each, and books at 30p each which would make him a fortune over here.

Next for the treatment were T-shirts, costing just 20p each, and, you name it, he bought it. I know, I could have done the same, but is this really the purpose of the trip. What with him and our friend Delboy Dave, it was a wonder the plane could cope with all the excess baggage.

Peel's PIECE

with Colin Peel



IT'S COOL
MAN!

This month, Colin Peel continues his look at French soccer stadiums, with ST. TROPEZ and FONTAINE in focus. Colin will be looking at more grounds in future articles, with two more being featured in the July 1989 issue.

FRENCH GROUNDS : 5. ST. TROPEZ

St. Tropez is an internationally famous, or notorious, resort renowned for the unashamed display of bare flesh and expensive yachts. The core population of six thousand swells many times over each summer with the invasion of the so-called "beautiful people" and hordes of ordinary tourists.

At least the core population manages to support a team in the Mediterranean Division of the Régionaux. They play at the Stade Municipal, on the edge of town just off the main road to Cogolin. I had expected to find the typical Stade Municipal with a cantilever down one side and a running track.



LEFT: St. Tropez - Stade Municipal Entrance side.



RIGHT: St. Tropez - Stade Municipal Top goal cover.

But St. Tropez's ground is rather more akin to a British non-league ground. Located on a slight slope, the pitch is large but the ground rather compact. On the far side to the entrance is a small stand, whilst the top end has a few rows of terracing with a shelter at the rear. The very narrow entrance side has some more terracing, another small stand and the club facilities.

The Stade Municipal isn't the glamourous and glitzy venue one might expect of such a (supposedly) swanky place. It is rather more a homely ground for the out-of-season residents of St. Tropez.

FRENCH GROUNDS : 6. FONTAINE

In a fairly large suburb of Grenoble, the Stade Maurice Thorez lies less than half a mile off the new Rapid Transit Line on the East Bank of the River Drac.



LEFT: Fontaine - Stade Maurice Thorez Grandstand.

The soccer pitch is the focus of a small multi-sports area - there are a couple of other pitches, a gymnasium and a small swimming pool on the site.

The ground has a running track and the customary cantilever stand down one side. This stand, and the floodlights, are slightly older than usual, but like many other grounds in the region, the setting is highly attractive.

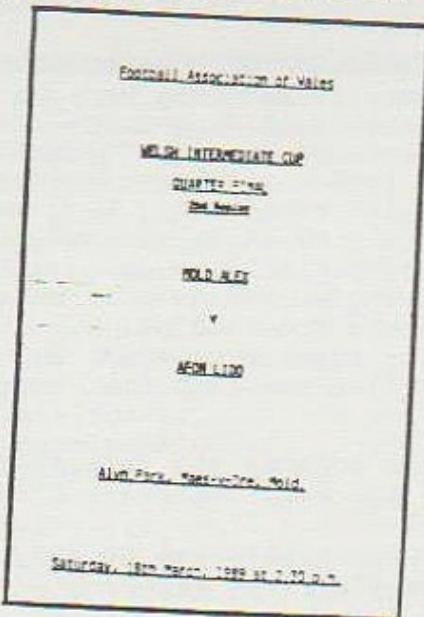
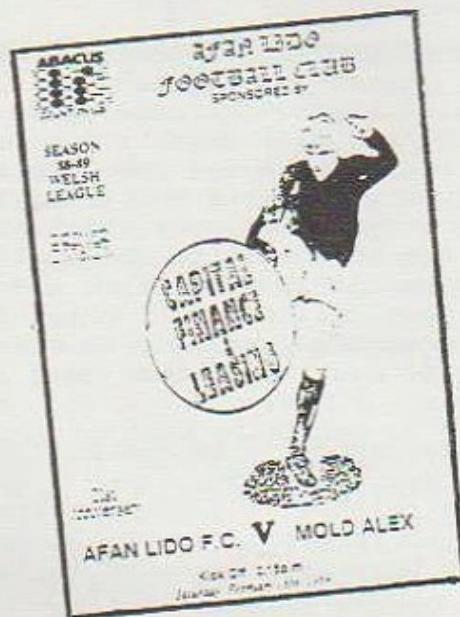
Fontaine is another reason to be thankful for the individuality, if inadequacy, of many British grounds.

NEXT MONTH : FOCUS ON CANNES AND C.S. CUISEAUX - LOUHANS + EXCELLENT PHOTOS.

WELSH RABBIT - continued from page 5

Finally, news that the Welsh Alliance is considering expanding to two divisions next season and plan to phase in ground improvement standards over a five year period, a move which I am sure we will all welcome. The aim is to put the Alliance on a par with the Abacus League in the South.

Next month I'll be featuring the oldest amateur club in Wales, amongst other things.

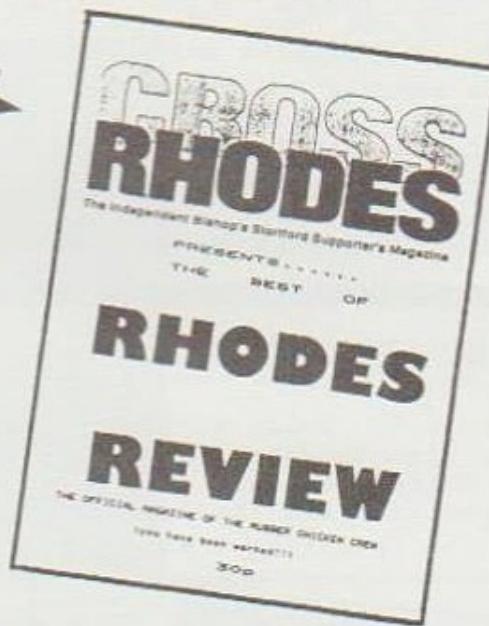
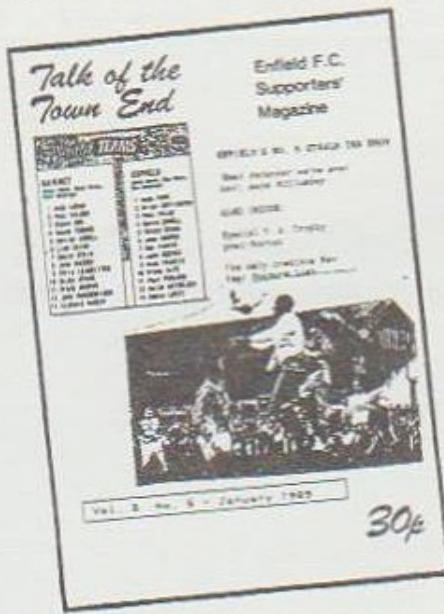


NON-LEAGUE BOOKSHELF

Each month we review books, magazines, handbooks, or any publication with a non-league connection. If you would like your publication reviewed on this page please write to: Groundhopper Magazine, 439 Merton Road, Wandsworth, London SW18 5LB enclosing a copy.

This month we take a look at a couple of Supporters Club magazines from the south, from ENFIELD and BISHOP'S STORTFORD.

First of all, GM Vauxhall Conference side Enfield produce TALK OF THE TOWN END, priced at 30p for 24 pages, typed and printed in black on white paper throughout. This magazine has been going for some time now, and the first thing that becomes noticeable is the apparent lack of photos, with virtually all the magazine taken up with articles of one sort or another, and with no advertising it represents good value for money. There is an interesting Editorial column in the review copy, with emphasis on the ill-fated trip to Boston United the previous week, outlining the team's shortcomings and reflecting on other recent games involving the club. There is a request for groundhoppers wishing to go to the Albanian Cup Final (yes, seriously!), then comes a well-written observation of Enfield's bizarre FA Trophy encounter with Hendon in which four players were dismissed, and this is followed by Glyn Smith's article where he puts forward his case for a Great Britain soccer team following England's failure at International level, there is an article about the Enfield Supporters' team, and particularly interesting is the centre page "Badgerbox" article compiled by Jim Cunneen and the Editor, which is a sort of general news column containing personal opinions and views of the game at league and non-league level. Next up is a look at Enfield in years gone by, this time looking back to 20 years ago, 12 years ago and 7 years ago, there is a New Years Honours List, and this is followed by an excellent send up of a rival non-league magazine in the form of an advert. Without



giving the game away as to which magazine it is, the advert begins as follows:- In this issue... The brilliant Tony Insenseless prints some unrecognisable black and white photos of obscure football grounds which you will never visit.... A full list of next month's fixtures if you can decipher the abbreviations such as:- Hay v Barn; Fish v Chip; Pete v Dud; Well v Ill; Bang v Mount; Run v Walk; Bog v Leek; Bill v Ben; Bald v Hare; Bath v Wash; Flob v Chob; Mole v Wort; Hen v Egh; Nant v Pant; Even v Odd.... it is very witty and I'm sure will be thoroughly appreciated by Mr. Tony Insensitive. The magazine closes with "Foot and Mouth" with some amusing quotes from well-known sports personalities. This is an interesting fanzine that is very well put together, and as one of the original Supporters' Club publications, it looks to have many more years ahead of it.

The Bishop's Stortford Independent Supporters Magazine CROSS RHODES is "The Official Magazine of the Rubber Chicken Crew" so you have been warned. Priced at 30p for 24 pages including a light blue cover and printed in black on white paper inside, the review copy is the best of the first 21 issues of Rhodes Review. Inside, there are the best (and worst) bits which have been featured in the

Cont'd next page.

CLUB SHOP REVIEW THIS MONTH:

MORECAMBE, DULWICH HAMLET, SOUTHPORT
& MORETON TOWN.

**NO.
8**

This month, we are featuring no less than FOUR club shops, with a brief description of each.

1. MORECAMBE : Having had good reports about The Shrimps programme shop, I decided to investigate, and also watch the game against Frickley Athletic. The shop is situated behind the goal at the far end of the ground as you go in, underneath the large covered shed. It is a walk-in shop, with the majority of the programmes in boxes, with some big match and older items on display boards. The selection is very good with a wide range of clubs from all levels of the game. There are other souvenirs available such as badges, scarves, pennants, and jumpers at reasonable prices. The two lads that run the shop are informative and helpful. Travellers will be made very welcome by this pair.

2. DULWICH HAMLET : An unusual shop this, as there is a hatch opening on to the club forecourt at the near end of the ground as you walk up the driveway and an entrance by the turnstiles and tea bar. The shop is reasonably well laid out with the programmes sorted into alphabetical piles on the shelves, and split into various categories. One pleasing aspect of this shop is that the current season selection has increased 5 fold on last term, making it on a par with 3 or 4 others in the Isthmian League.

They stock other souvenirs like badges, replica shirts, scarves and jumpers plus the magnificent Champion Hill St. Blues fanzine. Like Morecambe, the staff here are very helpful and friendly, and the ground deserves a visit because of the characters that inhabit it.

3. SOUTHPORT : Like Morecambe and Dulwich shops, this is also a walk-in type, whilst not as spacious as Morecambe, the programme section is as good. There is a good current season stock of league and non-league, plus an Eastern European box (great if you can read Russian or Czech), and a real bonus; homes and aways from the Sandgrounders league days priced at a quarter of what the majority of dealers are charging. There is also the usual line in souvenirs, with scarves, badges, pennants, hats, jumpers, rosettes and replica shirts all at reasonable prices.

The shop is at the far end of the stand situated by the top turnstiles. It is well run and the staff are very helpful, with a good line in sales patter.

4. MORETON TOWN : A nice surprise this, possibly the only shop in the Hellenic League. Located by the paybox, it is a small shop with a little shelf space and a serving hatch, with a reasonable selection of programmes from all levels of the game. There are also club jumpers, ties, pennants and badges available at reasonable prices. All in all, a commendable effort from a very small club, and a credit to the league.

* CLUB SHOP REVIEW WILL BE BACK NEXT SEASON WHEN MORE SHOPS FROM THE NON-LEAGUE SCENE WILL BE CHECKED OUT. LOOK OUT FOR THE NEW SERIES IN OUR SEPTEMBER ISSUE.

NON-LEAGUE BOOKSHELF - Continued from Page 14

magazine since Issue 1 in August 1985, which each piece clearly marked with the particular issue number it first appeared in and the date. There is a flashback to 1937 when Stortford beat Henley Town 4-2, then comes "All for 3 and a half quid" by Basil Blue, an observation on Vauxhall-Opel League catering standards at its grounds entitled "Burger Off!", plus various amusing pieces from Lloyd Pettiford, Northern Correspondant, plus your chance to join the North-West Groundhoppers Club, and for a mere £20 you can have such delights as - A quarterly magazine featuring various well known teams such as Waterloo Dock and Curzon Ashton, your very own "I'm a groundhopper and I've never seen an entire game" t-shirt, and all you need do is complete the application form which says....Yes, I do want to take advantage of your tremendous offer. I confirm that to join the North West Groundhoppers Club I will remain:- (a) Totally Boring, (b) Without any female friends as my chat-up line consists of 'Have you ever been to Tiptree Town?' and (c) Ripped off by clubs such as this".

The back page consists of a cutting entitled "Harrowing time!" which featured in a local paper and describes the circumstances for the ban put on the original "Rhodes Review" from the ground following a row with Harrow Borough about a controversial article.

LEO'S LINES

A review of the interesting non-league stories during the past month... by LEO HOENIG



And so, to the end, Newport County attempted to play a game of brinkmanship - but inevitably this was to fail, as at no time the attempt to revive the club was backed up with hard cash. However the eleventh hour (and fifty-fifth minute) appeal to the FA was handled shoddily, being dismissed only on the technicality that it should have been presented not by the clubs directors, but by the liquidators in whose hands the club now lays. By doing this, the Football Association have dodged the issue - surely they could have given a proper hearing and hence made clear that once Enfield had arrived at the Somerton Park ground, and found no-one there, that there was no hope at all for a come back.

One of my other stories last month annoyed a reader, who went as far as to write and demand an apology, with the threat of taking 'certain actions against me, and probably the magazine'. So at the request of Mr Ian Runham, and the Wirral Programme Club, I shall re-iterate some of my feelings on programmes. I cannot, however, offer an unequivocal apology to Ian, as I do not believe I have in fact wronged him. If this does not satisfy Ian, then perhaps rather than issuing vague threats, he could express his opinions and write with them to the magazine. Back to last month's issue, I mentioned the programme for a match between Tintagel and Wadebridge, issued by a groundhopper (but with the co-operation of the club). I suggested that as the origins of the programme were not marked upon it, that someone (I did not then know who) could obtain a copy of the programme, possibly even for nothing, and then sell it at a profit. Ian actually admits to obtaining the programme free, in so far as he paid for one, but was sent two; but then he says he sold it to raise funds for the Wirral Programme Club, rather than for his own gain. I am not going to say anything against the club, as I admire the ideals, as stated on the headed notepaper that the club is non-profit making, and that 'All programmes donated to club will be issued free to members'. Ian also claims that he did not know the programme was not a club issue himself (at least until receiving a letter from myself, just prior to the closing dates for offers). Ian also states that he does not have the time to check the status of programmes sent to him, but he makes it clear that he has no inclination to do so anyway, as he does not agree with me on the acceptability of such programmes. For myself, I cannot stop anyone from issuing programmes if they desire, and anyway it is not my intention to do so. But all programmes can surely add the name of the issuer, to at least let people know that it is a one off. After all, is anyone in the business of pretending that their singular programme is anything but that. I do, however, believe that such attempts at realism, as copying adverts into the programme without connecting the 'advertisers' puts the issuer on at least shakey ground, and if it is true that some programmes are being issued despite a complete failure to get permission from the home club, then surely this game is going to far.

As I have said before, I quite like to get in on the foreign travel lark, at least when someone else is paying the fares, and by tagging football onto trips made for work. I have been lucky enough to make trips to 15 clubs at very little travelling cost. However this by no means puts me in line with the experts, and on three occasions I have joined the real fanatics, many of whom leave Britain every Sunday morning on the 1am ferry from Dover to Ostende; they then travel to matches in Belgium or the Netherlands, often visiting minor clubs, as they have already been to all those in the top divisions, and then return to this Country on the 10.45 ferry, which arrives back at Dover sometime around 2am. Obviously, you may say, more money than sense, but in fact by use of some special offers, these trips would cost no more than a similar length of journey in England, but for the splendid variety of Belgian beers, which always allows one a good opportunity to spend a little cash. Still, I am amazed that some can do it every week, or travel to the lower division matches, as the level of football in the top two divisions in Belgium is not very high, and the rest is unlikely to match up even to the top levels of non-League football in this country.

Normally, I look forward to the last few weeks of the season. Once the clocks change at the end of March, we come into what I term the silly season, with a large selection of mid-week matches most nights of the week. There can be no more pleasant time to watch a small club than for an early evening game in spring, with the last rays of the setting sun disappearing over the ground. I have now already done most of the floodlit clubs in the Country, and can rarely

get a new ground in mid-week, without taking time off work, but during the last few weeks of the season this all changes. But not this time - the weather has been too good during the winter, and the number of fixtures left to be played in many leagues is too few. The first full week of the silly season, I had only one new ground on my list. Then the day before the match, winter came to the capital, and we actually had snow, and not surprisingly my Wednesday match (at Patchway, one of the longest trips I can do after work) was off. By the weekend, spring was back, and I enjoyed trips to Mildenhall (Saturday) and to Kortrijk, on one of my Belgium trips on the Sunday, but again it did not last, and the following Tuesday, I was phoning around in search of a fixture that was being played. I managed to find one in the Herts County League, but this was reduced to eighty minutes playing time - more due to the league's insistence on always playing 6.30 kick-offs (I normally avoid this league at this stage, as I do not like to be a match intended to play for less than ninety minutes). No new grounds on the Wednesday, so instead I went over to Welling, to see my favourite GM Vauxhall Conference team (Cheltenham) get a little clear of the trap dug for them. Cheltenham had been well clear of the relegation zone until they lost six points due to Newport's demise. I, for one was quite pleased to see a partial recovery in this match. So far things have not got better; I went down for the weekend to Cornwall, a match in one of the smaller leagues on the Saturday was to be followed by a Sunday morning trip to Torpoint, and a choice of three in the South Devon League on the Afternoon. As it was, the South West was the only part of the Country to be enveloped in rain, and we were lucky that only the third leg of the trip, in the South Devon League was called off. Still, we did get a little wet at Mullion, trying to stand against the wall of the clubhouse for protection from the rain. In a generous move, we brought the weather all the way back with us, so will I do better this week? I won't bore you with the answers, as by next month, hopefully I can think of something more interesting to write about instead - see you then.

SMALL ADS

Each month in *Groundhopper Magazine*, we are offering readers the chance to advertise in our Classifieds Section of the magazine. If you require or wish to sell programmes, etc., drop us a line with the details (maximum 50 words in advert) by the end of the month to be guaranteed inclusion in the next issue. Space is very limited, so it will be on a first come, first served basis, and the advert will only appear for one issue. Programme Dealers are excluded from this offer, small ads are for private use only. Write to: *Groundhopper Magazine Small Ads*, 439 Merton Road, Wandsworth, London SW18 5LB. Some ads may be held over due to shortage of space.

- * I am 20 and follow Sparta Prague, and would like to exchange metal badges and other souvenirs, and also am looking for penfriends in UK with an interest in football. Please write to me.
PETR PISA, ALESLOVA 1585, 27201 KLADNO 2, CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
- * BUREAU of Non-League Football magazines for sale. From Vol. One (1981-82) right through to date (Vol. Eight). Vol. One £4, Vol. Two to Six £6 per volume, Vol. Seven £8, Vol. Eight £10. All prices include P&P. Also Non-League Football Focus 1-14 (1986-88) £7.
ROB DAVIDSON, 41 WOODSIDE, NORTH WATFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE, WD2 5QT.
- * ADVANCE orders are now being taken for the first-ever Morecambe FC Yearbook 1988-89. Glossy throughout it includes articles, statistics, photographs, etc. Out July, £2 post free. Dealers & Club Shops - excellent discount offered.
PAUL OLDRIEVE, 13 LONGLANDS AVENUE, HEYSHAM, LANCS, LA3 2NV. TEL: 0524 53651. Also, 1988-89 programmes (100's different clubs, many non-league) 20% + post free.
- * FOR SALE: New enamel lapel badge of Lincolnshire Premier League Eaton Hall College FC. £1.75 plus SAE. Hurry! Only 50 being produced.
GRAHAM CURRY, SECRETARY, EATON HALL COLLEGE F.C., 81 ORDSALL PARK ROAD, ORDSALL, RETFORD, NOTTS, DN22 7PQ.
- * LAPELS: over 150 non-league badges on my current lists. Send large SAE to me. Quotes available to make your club a new badge too.
TOBY JACKSON, 25 TULIP COURT, NURSERY ROAD, PINNER, MIDDLESEX, HA5 2AP.
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Croydon's Jerry Dolke takes on Dulwich Hamlet's Ray Purviss during Hamlet's 2-1 win at Champion Hill. Photo: D.R. WEST.



Dorchester break down a Rugby attack in the first half of hectic action, the game ending 1-1. Photo: TIM LANCASTER.

LEAGUE DIRECTORY

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS, HOW TO GET THERE, PLUS
OTHER INFORMATION

THIS MONTH: GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY LGE.



This is the last in the present series of Club Directories where we feature a different League each month. This month, we feature THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE. Thanks go to Hon. Secretary, Mr. L V James for his assistance in the compilation of this Directory.

BRIMSCOMBE AND THRUPP : Ground: The Meadow, London Road, Brimscombe, Stroud, Glos. Colours: White & Navy Blue. Programme: Yes. Tel: 0453 882114. Nearest Railway Station: Stroud.

CADBURY HEATH : Ground: Springfield, Cadbury Heath Road, Warmley, Bristol. Colours: Red & White. Programme: Yes. Tel: 0272 612707. Nearest Railway Station: Bristol (Temple Meads).

CAMPDEN TOWN : Ground: Recreation Ground, Catbrook, Chipping Campden, Glos. Colours: Green & White. Programme: Yes. Tel: 0386 831935. Nearest Railway Station: Cheltenham.

CINDERFORD TOWN : Causeway Ground, Hilldene, Cinderford, Glos. Colours: Black & White. Programme: Yes. Tel: 0594 22039 (G), 0594 23009 (Sec). Nearest Railway Station: Gloucester.

D.R.G. (FP) : Ground: Shortwood, Carsons Road, Mangotsfield, Bristol. Colours: Sky Blue and Maroon. Programme: Yes. Tel: 0272 560390 (G), 0272 656232 (Sec). Nearest Railway Station: Bristol (Temple Meads).

ELLWOOD : Ground: Bromley Road, Ellwood, Coleford, Glos. Colours: All Blue. Programme: Yes. Tel: 0594 32927 (G), 0594 34845 (Sec). Nearest Railway Station: Gloucester.

FRAMPTON UNITED : Bell Field, Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucester. Colours: Blue and White. Programme: Yes. Tel: 0452 740224. Nearest Railway Station: Gloucester.

HAMBROOK : Whiteshill Common, Moorend Road, Hambrook, Bristol. Colours: All Red. Programme: Yes. Tel: 0272 566820 (G), 0272 652665 (Sec). Nearest Railway Station: Bristol (Parkway).

HANHAM ATHLETIC : Ground: Avon Valley Park, Vicarage Road, Hanham, Bristol. Colours: Blue and White. Programme: Yes. Tel: 0272 611845. Nearest Railway Station: Bristol (Temple Meads).

HARROW HILL : Larksfield Road, Harrow Hill, Drybrook, Glos. Colours: Claret & Blue. Programme: Yes. Tel: 0594 543783 (G), 0594 542421 (Sec). Nearest Railway Station: Gloucester.

HENBURY OLD BOYS : Ground: Arnall Drive Playing Fields, Henbury, Bristol. Colours: Yellow & Black. Programme: Yes. Tel: 0272 590475 (G), 0272 504002 (Sec). Nearest Railway Station: Bristol (Parkway).

LAWRENCE WESTON HALLEN : Ground: Hallen Playing Field, Moorhouse Lane, Hallen, Bristol. Colours: Blue & Black. Programme: Yes. Tel: 0272 822566. Nearest Railway Station: Bristol (Parkway).

OLD GEORGIANS : Ground: St George School Playing Field, Johnsons Lane, Whitehall, Bristol. Colours: Sky & Navy Blue. Programme: Yes. Tel: 0272 516888 (G), 0272 556292 (Sec). Nearest Railway Station: Bristol (Temple Meads).

PATCHWAY : Ground: Scott Park, Coniston Road, Patchway, Bristol. Colours: Black & White stripes. Programme: Yes. Tel: 0272 792983 or 791234. Nearest Railway Station: Bristol (Parkway).

PORT OF BRISTOL : Ground: Port of Bristol Sports Club, Nibley Road, Shirehampton (off Portway), Bristol. Programme: Yes. Tel: 0272 795854. Nearest Railway Station: Bristol (Temple Meads).

PUCKLECHURCH SPORTS : Ground: Pucklechurch Recreation Ground. Colours: All White. Programme: Yes. Tel: 027 582 3675 or 0272 551907. Nearest Railway Station: Bristol (Parkway).

TUFFLEY ROVERS : Ground: Lower Tuffley Lane, Podsmead, Gloucester. Colours: Light Blue & Claret. Programme: No. Tel: 0452 504985 (G), 0452 23495 (Sec). Nearest Railway Station: Gloucester.

WOTTON ROVERS : Ground: Synwell Playing Field, Wotton-under-Edge, Glos. Colours: All Royal Blue. Programme: Yes. Tel: 0453 842929 (G), 0453 845178 (Sec). Nearest Railway Station: Stroud.

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- GROUNDS IN FOCUS -

Photo: S. MOORE.



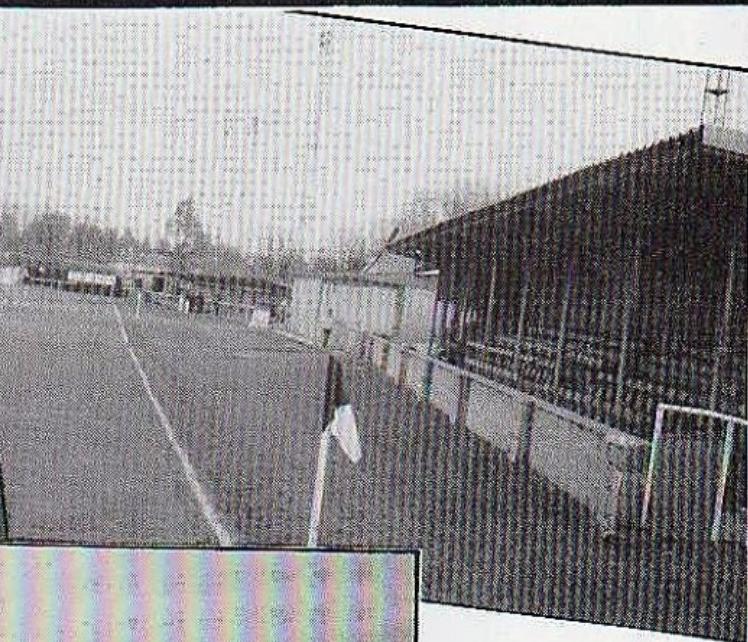
PENRYN ATHLETIC (Jolly's Cornwall Combination)

Photo: K. RIDING



BRECHIN CITY (Scottish Div. II)

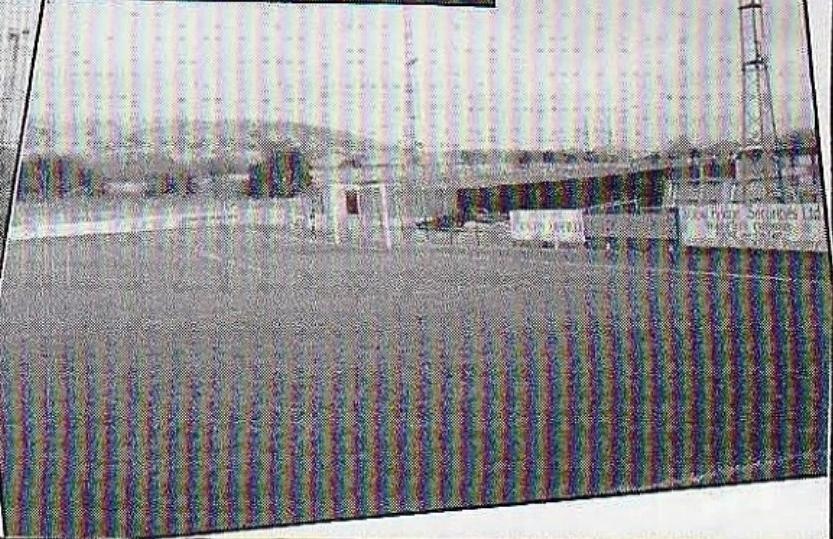
THE 4 SIDES OF...



HFS
LOANS



1st
DIV.



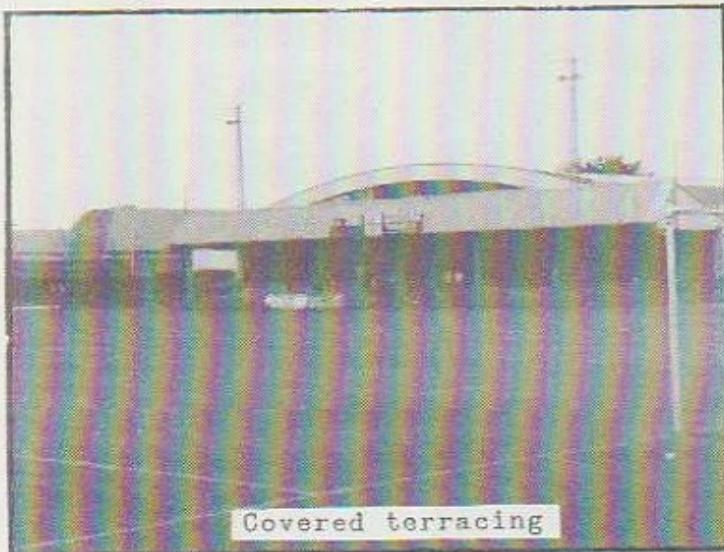
ACCRINGTON STANLEY

Folkestone Town - can they rise again?

FOLKESTONE TOWN were formed as Folkestone and Shepway in 1884 (they dropped the Shepway in 1980-81) but at present things are not going too well for this old club. They are currently languishing in mid-table in the Beazer Homes League Southern Division after suffering relegation from the Premier Division in 1986.

In the past, the club have had several good runs in the FA Cup, reaching the 3rd Round Proper in 1932-33 and 1965-66. In fact, in their 1932-33 cup run, they defeated Norwich City, then of Division 3 South, now near the top of the First Division, by one goal to nil. Apart from reaching the 3rd Round twice, they have reached the 1st Round 11 times and the 2nd Round 4 times, the best in recent years being a First Round appearance in 1982-83.

The FA Trophy has never brought out the best in Folkestone, as they have never reached the competition proper. 1971-72, 1976-77 and 1979-80 saw them reach the 3rd Qualifying Round before bowing out to Margate (after 2 replays), Woking and Hastings Utd (replay) respectively.



Covered terracing



Main Stand

Folkestone have won the Kent Senior Cup 5 times in 1934, 1957, 1969, 1978 and 1983 as well as the Kent Senior Shield on 7 occasions.

The club play in amber and black at Cheriton Road. The ground is situated midway between Folkestone's two main-line stations West and Central (and is about a 5-10 minute walk). The ground is next door to the county cricket ground and can be found behind Presto stores.

There are a couple of entrances into the 8,000 capacity ground, the main one leads you down a path alongside some tennis courts and into the arena.



Covered Terracing

BY
IAN
WARREN

As you enter the ground itself on your right is the clubhouse and a snack bar, whilst on the left a portacabin houses the club shop.

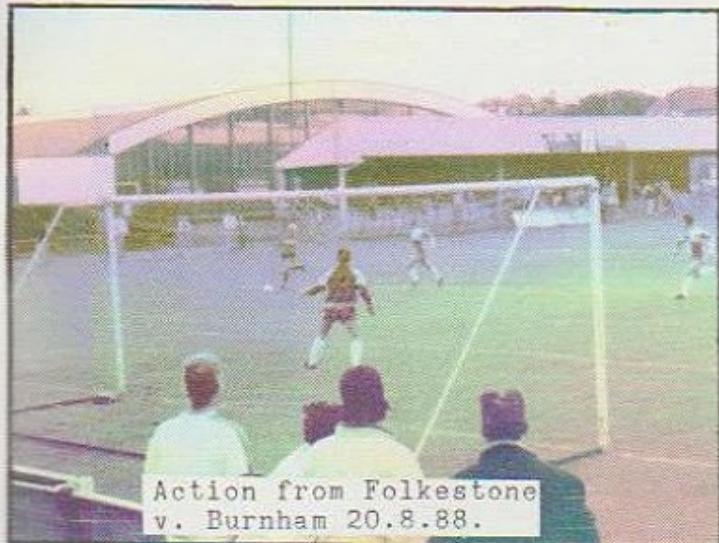
Behind the left-hand goal, a covered terrace runs the full length of the pitch, at the other end is an uncovered stretch of terracing from where you can look over onto the cricket pitch.

Over the far side is a very neat all-seater stand, the dressing rooms and another snack bar. On the near side is a small stand which runs about $\frac{1}{4}$ length of the pitch, and the day I visited this seemed to be very popular, but that may have had something to do with the rainstorm that hit the ground.

Seriously though, I found the ground to be neat and compact, with plenty of cover and good spots to view a match, in a picturesque setting.

For the 1988-89 season, the club have been producing a 24-page programme at 30p, stapled into a green cover. It contains a very comprehensive statistics page, giving complete results, crowds, line-ups, etc.

Folkestone are quite well supported by Beazer Homes League standards, the 1987-88 average was 231 for league games and 272 for cup games, a far cry from the ground record of 7,801 set in 1958 for the visit of Margate.



Action from Folkestone v. Burnham 20.8.88.



Uncovered terracing at the cricket ground end.

BACK ISSUES OF GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE

The following back issues are still available in limited numbers at £1 each including postage...

No.4	DEC 1987	No.15	DEC 1988
No.9	JUNE 1988	No.16	JAN 1989
No.10	JULY 1988	No.17	FEB 1989
No.12	SEPT 1988	No.18	MARCH 1989
No.13	OCT 1988	No.19	APRIL 1989
No.14	NOV 1988	No.20	MAY 1989

Please make all cheques payable to the magazine. Send to:- Back Issues, Groundhopper Magazine, 24 Poplar Road, Wimbledon, London, SW19 3JR.

THIS MONTH'S COVER

For a change, our front cover this month features a Scottish League ground, that of Dunfermline Athletic's East End Park at the Halbeath Road entrance.

Photo by K. Riding.





HOPPER POST

The LETTER OF THE MONTH now earns the sender a 'Groundhopper Magazine' notebook and a set of six coasters in presentation box.



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What do you think of the magazine? Do you have any amusing groundhopper tales? Do you have any comments about Non-League Football in general?

Write to:

Hopper Post,
Groundhopper Magazine,
439 Merton Road,
Wandsworth SW18 5LB

Dear GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE,

Further to my article on the Dorset Combination League in the April issue, I must report that Shaftesbury Town's Coppice Street ground has been greatly improved. I based that section of the article on a visit I made to Coppice Street for a game at the start of the 1986-87 season, but a very recent visit revealed that a lot has changed in two and a half years!

A rail runs along the pitch on the social club side, and a little path leads from the dressing rooms to the pitch. Also on the dressing room side is a new trainers' box block, plus two sections of covered accommodation.

These very smart stone sections of cover each have a step of terracing inside them and can cater for about 50 people.

But that doesn't complete the list of ground improvements. On the other side of the pitch, the old trainers' boxes have been converted into a tiny seated stand! Coppice Street is well worth a visit, and Shaftesbury's shops are literally only two minutes' walk away. The town itself is quite pretty and is full of very old buildings.

On the subject of writing to clubs and receiving no reply when requesting souvenirs, I have written to numerous clubs over the years, enclosing badges and programmes for swaps.

Poole Town, Trowbridge Town, Workington and Wycombe Wanderers are just a few of those that have kept my souvenirs and sent nothing in reply, but on the other hand, I am full of praise for Burton Albion, who replied by return of post, and Brechin City, who replied within a week.

And how about German side Bayern Munich? I sent them a pennant, badge and a programme and in return received a Bayern poster, programme, pennant, and pin badge. Of the other foreign sides I have written to, the Germans seem to be the most honest and very helpful while I have found the Spanish and French the most mean (or dishonest!).

RICHARD BRIGGS, 1 GLEBE CLOSE, THORNFORD, SHERBORNE, DORSET.

Dear GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE,

Your trips in GHM are well publicised and the post-trip write-ups make them sound very interesting, and maybe instead of having a minibus running from Hedgesford, why not have a London coach for the trips?

The reason for this would be the fact that many Southern or London based fans must be put off travelling to Scotland due to the fact they have to travel to Hedgesford first.

If the GH Club could hire a coach in London, to pick up the London fans before travelling to the Midlands to pick up the rest, it would be better.

Why not give it a try. I am sure the numbers interested would merit a coach.

DAVID McGEE, 16 SANDY CLOSE, HERTFORD, HERTS, SG14 2BB.

Dear GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE,

Generally speaking, your magazine does fulfill its purpose pretty well. However, there does seem to be an ever increasing trend in criticising clubs, particularly on the old thorny subject of programmes. To my way of thinking, people who abandon trips because of lack of programmes are being extremely narrowminded. Do these people realise the amount of work that goes into the simplest of issues? In most cases, I think not. Firstly, you have to find someone to write it, then make it up into a presentable form. Then there is the problem of actually printing it. Generally, this costs money, and village clubs with average gates of 20+ are going to find it hard to make the programme pay its way.

Let's have less knocking of the amount of adverts as well. In numerous cases, if you were to take away the adverts, you take away the programme, and also an important source of club revenue. Most small clubs' programmes exist virtually entirely as a means of club income, and this should be borne in mind before the content is criticised.

The practice of producing programmes for clubs who don't normally issue by an outsider, is fine if the individual has the full co-operation and support of the home club involved. Any monies involved should cover solely the cost of

production. If any profit is made, it should at least be offered, as a matter of courtesy, to the club involved. People doing this for a financial gain have no place in non-league football.

So, before you see where the next excuse comes in Tony Middleton's list, spare a thought for the people involved with the club. Their task is nearly always thankless.

ANDY SNEDDON, 29 ROSEACRE, BLACKPOOL, LANCS, FY4 2PN.

Dear GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE,

May I please beg space on your letters pages to correct a few inaccuracies within your recent League Directory section for the Anglian Combination League. A good number of clubs are either shown as not producing a programme at all or on an irregular basis.

I know that a large number of groundhoppers will not visit a club unless a programme is available, so hopefully I can update the information that was supplied to you some while ago by Jim Harpley, the League Secretary.

Clubs issuing on a regular basis now also include Attleborough, Aylsham Wanderers, Dereham Hobbies, Loddon United, Norwich United and Reepham Town and several others are almost certain to start issuing from next season - 1989-90.

The aforementioned clubs' programmes are all produced by Barnes Print and Promotions of Dereham, Norfolk (and they also produce for around 15-20 other clubs ranging from Anglian Combination, The Jewson League, through to the Beazer Homes League).

For any groundhoppers who would like a full list (of the current season), if they would please contact me and I will be happy to send them information of those clubs and contacts should they like copies.

KEITH ROWE, 1 POUND GREEN CLOSE, SHIPDHAM, THETFORD, NORFOLK, IP25 7LW.

Dear GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE,

I fully support the views expressed by Steve King in the May issue regarding the disturbing trend of physical abuse by footballers on match officials. However, I feel the verbal abuse by footballers on match officials and against other players is increasing at a disturbing rate. A quote from the match programme of Amersham Town v. Barkingside (Green King Spartan League) 1st April reads as follows:-

"We are all aware that a certain amount of shouting and cussing between players goes on during a competitive match but when it becomes intimidating to the officials and the opposition, the man in charge should take action".

This quote refers to the continual bad language which could be heard by all the spectators at the previous Amersham home match. It looked likely to occur at the Amersham Town v. Barkingside match, but a strong referee managed to stamp it out very early on in the match.

While this verbal abuse occurs in League football, most of it is not heard due to the size of the crowds. However, at non-league football grounds, it is not unusual to hear every word said because of the small crowds present.

The non-league scene can be praised for a place where you can take your family to see a football match in safety. This advantage will only be negated if they have to put up with a string of four letter words for 90 minutes. The responsibility for reversing this disturbing trend is in the hands of the players and officials of all non-league clubs.

PAUL ROBERTS, 'TIOGA', CHILTERN ROAD, BALLINGER, GREAT MISSENDEN, BUCKS, HP16 9LH.

Dear GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE,

I have just read Groundhoppers Viewpoint in Issue 20 of GHM. I am disgusted with the way that some players treat match officials. Referees and linesmen give up their time to allow players to play football, and want to be allowed to enjoy themselves as well. People who physically attack officials should not only be banned from ever playing football again, but should also be charged with GBH. This may seem harsh but this kind of thing should be stopped somehow. I am a Class 3 referee myself and find that because I am only 15, I am singled out by spectators. I only officiate young boys but the language aimed at me by parents seems amazing. When I started, I admit that I made mistakes, but I have given up my time to allow their children to play football on a Sunday morning, and I should NOT be repaid by abuse!

RICHARD BOGGIS, 18 GARNETTS, TAKELEY, BISHOP'S STORTFORD, HERTS, CM22 6RJ.

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Chris Ashbridge writes

EXCLUSIVE!

At the moment I am feeling a little bit stale writing about foreign football, so I think I'll write about English non-league football instead, while waiting to see what you readers think of my column in the readers survey (if most of you don't enjoy my articles I'll do the democratic thing and step down). This month, I think I will discuss the subject of groundhopping 'guidelines', a subject that Leo Hoenig brought up in issue 14. Leo has been criticised by the mysterious Slough Town 'August the 2nd' Club (see the letters page of Issue 16), but I feel that this criticism was unjustified as all Leo was doing was to examine an interesting subject in detail. However, I do think that Leo was wrong in criticising the 'prominent traveller' who often asks the home team to give him lifts to and from the ground. I'm pretty certain that I can guess the identity of this person correctly but it is wrong of Leo, or any groundhopper, to start knocking other hoppers for trivial reasons like this. We should all stick together, and concentrate on promoting our hobby. By the way, why do we often refer to each other as 'travellers'? This is commonly used pseudonym for gypsies, so surely 'groundhopper' is a more accurate, if not totally suitable term.

In his article in issue 14, Leo asked the question as to whether a new ground should be counted. As he rightly says, "It is all up to the individual". However, it appears that, according to him, most groundhoppers will only count a ground if they witnessed a complete match. Personally, I myself am a little more flexible. I count a match on a new ground even if I have arrived after the kick off, or if the match is abandoned before the 90 minutes have been played. My reasons for doing so are largely practical ie; in order to avoid having to make too many 'revisits', a subject I shall return to later in this article. In fact, I have been to as many as some 10-15 odd grounds where I arrived after the kick-off. In some cases British Rail were to blame, such as the time when a train delay of 1 hour 25 minutes resulted in me arriving at Bangor City a couple of minutes after the kick off. The programmes had all sold out and I was most fortunate to obtain a copy, albeit with the team changes scribbled on, after the match. In other cases, my own incompetence has been to blame as when, as long ago as September 1980 I arrived 15 minutes after the kick off at Feltham but fortunately there were still programmes available and the game ended goalless so I didn't miss anything. The reason for me arriving so late was because I made the cardinal error of making a combined tube & bus journey instead of going by British Rail or walking from Hatton Cross tube. I caught the wrong bus from Hounslow Central tube, and only by running like mad did I manage to reach the ground. I can still vividly remember that day as if it were only yesterday.

That was in the days when Feltham were playing on grass and were getting fewer spectators than players (nowadays they seem to get good crowds). I returned to their ground 6 years later, in the summer of 1986, but not for a soccer match. Having heard that the American Football team Heathrow Jets played their home matches on Feltham's newly laid plastic pitch, I decided to see what the Yankee version of football was like. As things turned out, I found the gridiron so boring that I left before the end, and there was no programme too! Which brings me back to what Leo wrote about leaving matches before the end to catch last trains. I don't know if there are any hoppers who have done this, but I have never left a football match before the end of all play (ie; including extra time, penalties, etc) for any reason and in fact I would never attend any midweek match unless I could be certain of catching the last train. This of course does not apply to my overseas trips when I can stay in hotels, etc. The subject of revisiting grounds is, for me at least, an interesting one, as I have always wondered how many groundhoppers there are who would never make revisits. Personally, I try to keep my revisits down to the bare minimum in order to save money for the long-distance trips I often make to visit new grounds. Some 8-9 years ago, when I had only just started groundhopping, I used to re-visit my local clubs like Barnet, Hendon, etc frequently but these days are long gone. Nowadays my revisits are usually only carried out if the original visit failed to yield a programme, and the revisits are always in midweek. A classic example is that of Bracknell Town. I made my original visit there for a Saturday match in March 1983. This was when they were competing in the London Spartan

League. No programme was issued, which was infuriating when one considers that their programme (was there actually one?) finished in 3rd place in the London Spartan League section of the Wirral awards! I duly revisited the ground for a midweek match in October 1985, as by this time they had joined the Isthmian League (I like to refer to leagues by their original titles) and as some of you doubtless know, programme issuing is now compulsory in this league (see the league handbook). Not only was I able to read a proggie on the train back home, but Bracknell had made some substantial improvements to their ground as well.

Like Leo, I have a 'hit list' of leagues I want to complete. Unlike some groundhoppers, I don't try to complete all the FA Vase clubs. The lowest level which I would watch in Britain is the Herts Senior County League, and even then I would only watch the Premier Division of this league, as the two divisions below it carry intermediate status, as opposed to the senior status of the Premier Division. Yes, you've guessed it, I only go for leagues which carry senior status. Similarly, I will only visit Division 1 and 2 clubs in the Sussex County League, but not Division 3 which carries intermediate status. However, I don't mind watching intermediate clubs playing in cup ties, as long as they are the visiting team.

I will end this article with a couple of personal observations. Like Leo, I have not yet completed the 92 (93?) League grounds (I currently have 82) but for a different reason - I prefer non-league football, and so have been dragging my heels for years over the league grounds. Lastly, I should like to comment on the story that has appeared in both G.H.M. and the N.L.T. lately, of the hopper who immobilised a bus at Totternhoe. I am a little sceptical of whether this article is true, and it may well turn out to be as genuine as a 'Sunday Sport' headline story. But if it is true, then the hopper concerned need not have taken such drastic action. I too just missed the hourly bus after a match I saw at Totternhoe in 1985. It was a midweek match, and a programme was, to my surprise, issued, and having no desire to hang around the village for another hour, I did not opt for any Clint Eastwood style tactics (remember the bus hijacking in 'Dirty Harry?') but what I did instead was to walk the 1½ miles to Dunstable crossroads from where there is a frequent bus service to Luton. To end this article, I should like to mention that I often get letters from readers, requesting information on continental soccer. I'm always happy to receive such requests, but I have one plea to make - please enclose an SAE. Not everyone does so! However, unlike Leo, I always reply within a few days!

COMING NEXT MONTH

Next month's JULY 1989 issue of *GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE* will be out on Tuesday 30th May, and as usual, will be packed with all the regular features and articles as well as the following:-

- * Club File on Abacus Welsh League side ABERYSTWYTH TOWN, which will include photos of the ground, programme details, maps, where to eat and drink in the town, what to see and do in and around the area, etc. Two pages of facts and information for those wishing to visit Aberystwyth Town.
- * Survey Results! Yes, all your survey forms have been analysed and all the results and a special report on the findings will appear in our next issue. What features proved the most popular? Which items do you hate? Find out in the July issue.
- * Colin Peel continues his look at French soccer stadiums with a look at the grounds at CANNES and C.S. CUISEAUX - LOUHANS, plus some excellent photos.
- * The centre page photo special will feature the four sides of....EASTBOURNE TOWN of the Sussex County League Division One.
- * Next month, we have exciting news about *GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE* which will have a completely new look starting from the September 1989 issue, and will have much more COLOUR and printed throughout on glossy paper.
- * All the regular features will be in next month's issue including WELSH RABBIT, LEO'S LINES, HOPPER POST, TONY MIDDLETON, etc.
- * Richard Briggs will have a special report on groundhopping in the Bath area with photos of Larkhall Athletic and Bath City's grounds.

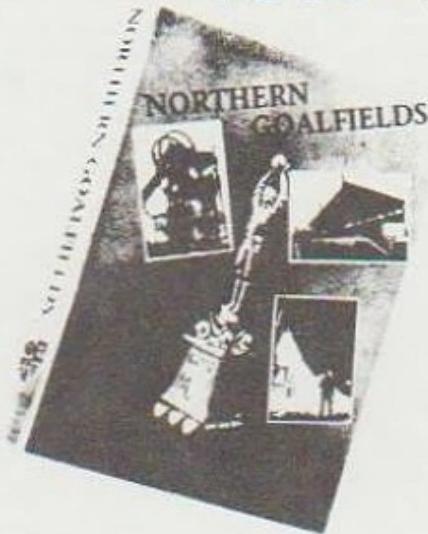
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THE EASTERN SCENE

with PADDY LILLISTONE

A news round-up from East Anglia
and the surrounding areas

Club Call : Chatteris Town

One of the outposts of the Jewson League, Chatteris lies in the heart of the Fens and has the air of a wild west town about it. If you feel the cold, don't go in winter - but if you like a wild, bleak place totally unique in this county it is well worth a visit and if you go by car, fill it up with cheap vegetables from the rich black fields.

The town is easiest reached via the A141 from Huntingdon with the ground just off the by-pass in West Street. There is a clubhouse behind one goal and two small stands on either side of the pitch, one seating 250, the other is covered standing. There are floodlights, which were erected in 1984 and a refreshment kiosk, but the programme is very basic and due for a change. The town has the usual pubs and cafes - but little else. But a visit to the Lillies offers the opportunity to enjoy another unique part of our county.

* * * * *

FELIXSTOWE TOWN have finally won their battle with local residents and have obtained planning permission for floodlights in the nick of time. The race is now on to raise the necessary cash, but local dockers have got the ball rolling with the promise of sponsoring one tower. Letters of support came from all over the county, and included Bobby Robson, to which the 'Seasiders' are deeply grateful.

Talking of Bobby Robson, Bury Town's signing of former England star Paul Mariner takes their total of players from his former squad at Ipswich Town to five. Suffolk & Ipswich League champions WOODBRIDGE TOWN and probable Essex and Suffolk Border League winners CORNARD UNITED have been accepted into the Jewson League Division One.

Guiliano Maiorana, signed from Fenland club HISTON TOWN, made his debut for Manchester United in their televised match against Arsenal, giving Lee Dixon something of a runaround.

The 'Dutchies' (the Dutch Supporters of British Football) made an Easter visit to this country, seeing games at Brentford, Watford, Colchester, Bristol Rovers, Spurs, Blackburn, Manchester City and Crewe and finishing on the Tuesday with Ipswich v. Chelsea.

Anglian Combination outfit BUNGAY TOWN opened a new clubhouse complex recently after fire had destroyed their facilities a few months ago. Bungay are known as 'The Black Dogs' from a legendary dog who was supposed to have terrorised the community many years ago.

1,000 SUDBURY TOWN fans boosted the gate for the FA Vase Semi-Final first leg at Hungerford Town to 1,500, but in the return there was an estimated 4,300 at the Priory Stadium to see the Suffolk club's 6-0 victory. The result made banner headlines in the local 'Ipswich Evening Star' and sales of inflatable 'Ronnie the Parrott' an affectionate 'mickey take' of chairman Ron Ashdown, have been terrific. There is now not a coach to be hired in the area, and it is confidently expected that the record Vase gate will be smashed at Wembley.

For the first time for 18 years, the Suffolk Senior Cup Final will be competed between two Essex and Suffolk Border League sides in CORNARD UNITED and SUDBURY WANDERERS. With both clubs coming from the town of Sudbury, it could be a clean sweep if Sudbury Town beat Bury Town in the Suffolk Premier Cup final as well.

Programme Spot : Stansted F.C.

Stansted, of the Essex League have a programme with an eye-catching blue and white cover with a full page team picture on the inside front page. The 24 page insert has half of them as pre-printed adverts, the remainder being the customary tables and notes etc. Not a bad effort for only 20p.

REMEMBER : IF SENDING IN PHOTOGRAPHS FOR PUBLICATION, PLEASE INDICATE CLEARLY WHETHER OR NOT YOU REQUIRE THEM BACK.

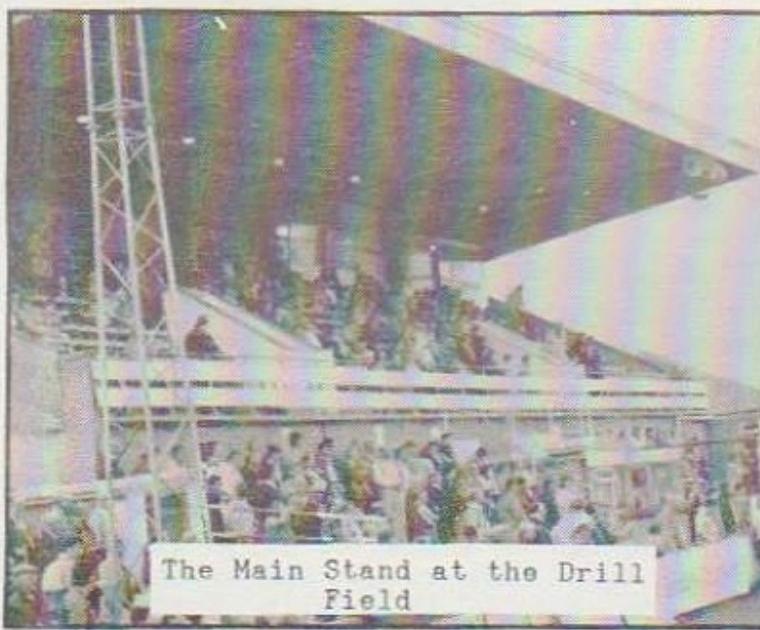
Drill Field: The Vics stay put - for now!

After much debate in recent years about their future, Northwich Victoria will be staying at The Drill Field for at least the next two seasons. The oldest club in Cheshire was formed in 1874, and the Vics have played at The Drill Field for over a hundred years. Before Vics moved in, the field was the drilling ground of the 22nd company of the 3rd Battalion of the Cheshire Rifle Volunteers, hence its name. It was bounded on two sides by a thorn hedge with a ditch along one touchline, the latter being so close that corners were taken with a plank strategically placed across it!

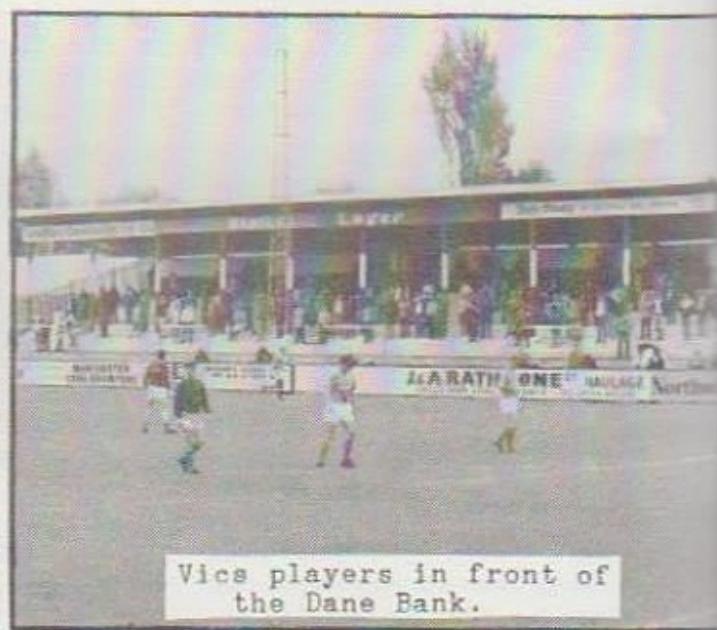
The Drill Field of today is very different. The main feature of the ground is the impressive 600-seater cantilever stand, which was constructed in 1968. The stand houses the dressing rooms, offices, souvenir shop at one end and one of several snack bars on the ground at the other end.

Opposite the main stand is the Danebank, the central 40 yards of which are terraced to a height of 25 feet above the pitch, and this area is covered. The slope of the remainder of the embankment was evened out in 1977 and several crush barriers have been installed.

The Water Street end of the ground provides covered terraced standing accommodation. However, the Crossville End is at the time of writing, closed to spectators.



The Main Stand at the Drill Field



Vics players in front of the Dane Bank.

The overall capacity of The Drill Field is 10,000, but under restrictions now imposed under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act, only 3,500 people are allowed into the ground.

Alongside the stand is the Vics Social Club. There are also several pubs within only a few minutes walk from the ground.

The ground lies near the centre of the town, alongside the bus station. The town of Northwich lies almost centrally within the boundaries of Cheshire. Northwich is easily accessible from the motorway network, with the M6 being six miles away and the M56 12 miles away. It is also reached easily by train, London - Liverpool Main Line, with Hartford station two miles away.

There are two local newspapers which cover both Vics and their across-town neighbours Witton Albion. The Guardian and The Chronicle are both available on Thursdays. The usual day for midweek games under their six pylon floodlighting system is Mondays.

The Vics Souvenir Shop is situated at the Crossville End of the stand, on the ground. The shop sells a wide range of souvenirs and programmes. The Vics programme for the 1988-89 season costs 50p and contains 32 pages of which half are copy and half consist of adverts.

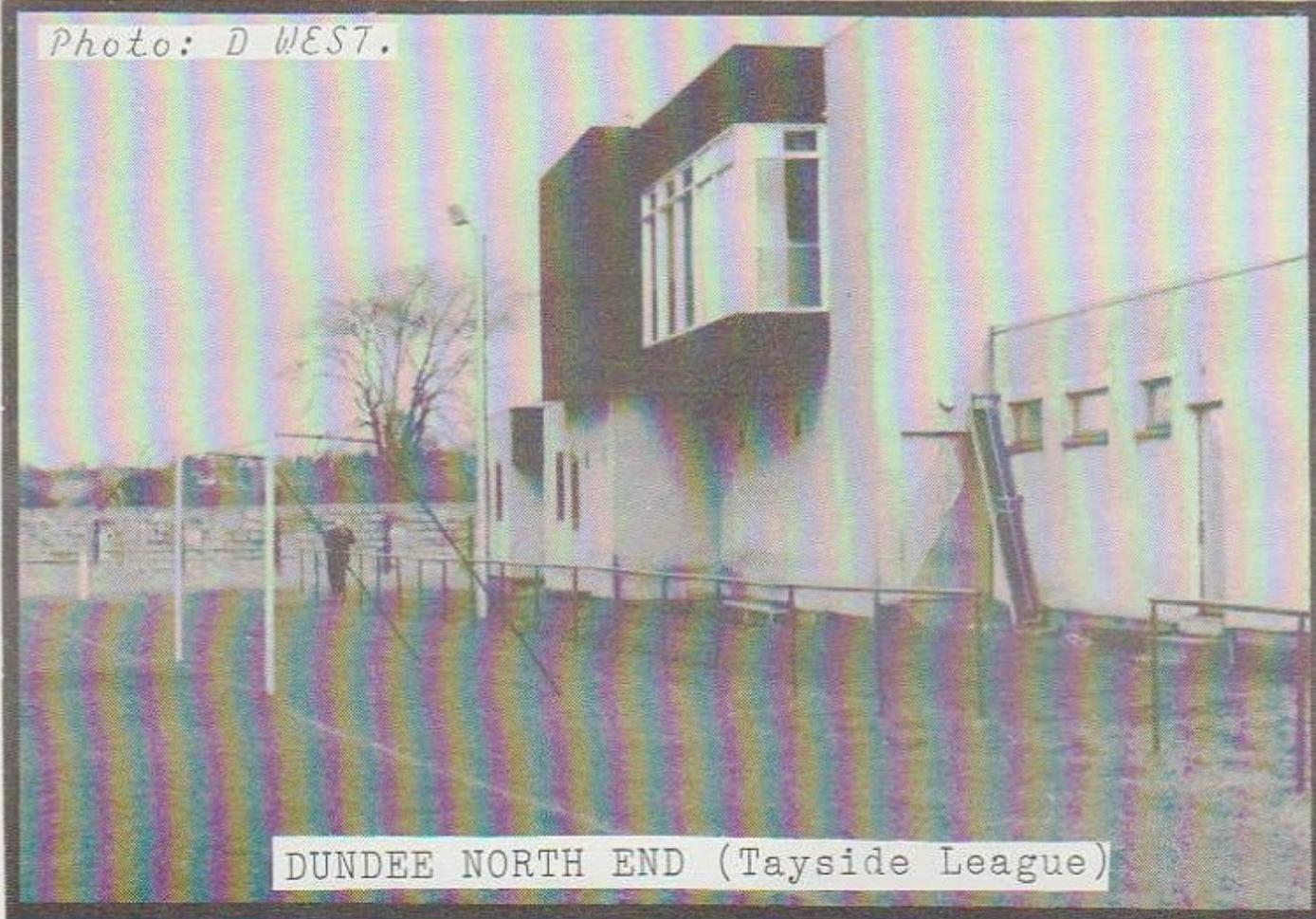
- GROUNDS IN FOCUS -

Photo: D WEST.



SIDDLEHAM (West Sussex League)

Photo: D WEST.



DUNDEE NORTH END (Tayside League)

GROUNDHOPPING IN THE D and E LEAGUE

• BY RICHARD BRIGGS •

The Devon and Exeter League is ideal for groundhoppers with dozens of high standard grounds to visit. The league comprises a premier division, four senior divisions and five intermediate divisions, plus a youth division.

Apart from the grounds of clubs from higher leagues who run reserve teams in the Devon and Exeter League, the best ground must be premier division side Willand Rovers' Silver Street.

Willand is quite a big Mid Devon village, about four miles from Junction 27 of the M5. Silver Street is the B3181 that runs through the village. Rovers' pitch is completely railed and there is hard standing all round it. On one side of the pitch is a smart 120 seater grandstand and trainers' boxes. Behind the far goal is the social club/dressing room complex and car parking space. The ground, which is surrounded by houses, boasts training lights, and has some very nice green gates at its entrance.

Newton St Cyres is a village on the A377 Exeter to Tiverton road. It is about three miles out of the city and has a premier division team that issued its first ever programme in March. The Recreation Ground, which is also used for cricket, is very easy to find. Simply take the first turning on the right after you see the post office when approaching from Exeter.

The ground is a few hundred yards down this road. There is ample parking space beside the ground, which has two training pitches as well as the full size pitch, which is railed and roped off. There are advertising boards around the pitch plus trainers' boxes. The only cover is under the overhang of the dressing rooms' roof, and although this is a few yards from the main pitch, it runs parallel to it and the view is quite good.

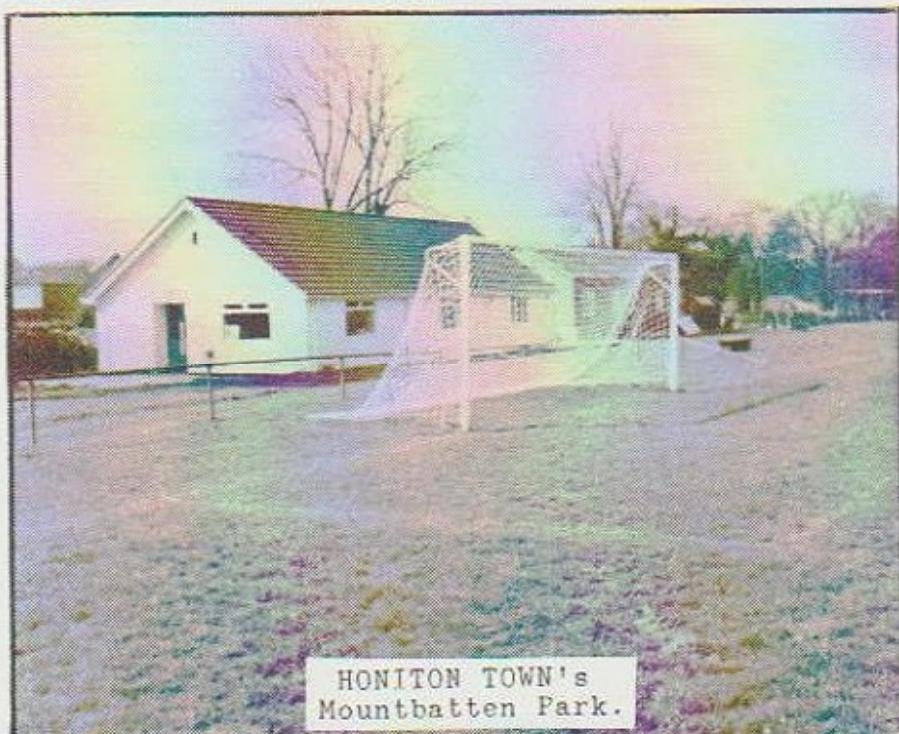
The best ground I have seen in the Devon and Exeter League behind Willand's is Crediton United's Lord's Meadow. Crediton applied for Great Mills League membership for the 1989-90 season and were only turned down because their dressing rooms are too far from their pitch. Crediton is a town with a population of around 6,000 and can be found a couple of miles further along the A377 from Newton St Cyres.

The Lord's Meadow is a sports complex that is in Commercial Road. This branches off Exhibition Road, which is the A3072 to Tiverton. The complex boasts rugby, football and hockey pitches as well as a big car park. Crediton United have a very smart social club and their pitch is completely railed off and has a lot of advertising boards around it.

On one side of the pitch is a metal and stone grandstand with a capacity of about 150. In front of this are some proper dug outs. There is hard standing on the grandstand side of the pitch. Crediton issue an excellent programme that puts many Great Mills sides to shame.

Parallel to the Lord's Meadow on Exhibition Road is Crediton Rugby Club's excellent Blagdon ground. This is well worth a visit too. The ground has a splendid social club/dressing rooms complex and up a steep slope is the pitch, which has a 250 seater grandstand and scoreboard. Programmes are issued for all games.

Alphington were premier division champions in the 1977-78 and 1978-79 seasons. Their Chronicles ground features a new social club/dressing rooms complex and cover is provided under the overhang of its roof. And you find yourself standing on concrete not grass!



Alphington is on the southern edge of Exeter and the ground is in Church Road. The pitch is roped off and has training lights and trainers' boxes, while running beside it is the Alphin Brook.

Topsham Town play in the senior section of the league and their Coronation Fields ground is probably the best outside the premier division. The pitch is completely railed off and boasts some advertising boards. There is hard standing around the pitch and car parking space. On one side of the pitch is the social club/dressing room complex and cover for 100 people beneath the overhang of its roof. There are trainers' boxes in front of the social club. The Coronation Fields can be found on the outskirts of Topsham, beneath the M5 and opposite The Retreat, on the main road to Exeter which is a couple of miles to the north west.

South Western League side Clyst Rovers run a reserve side in the Devon and Exeter League's senior section. Waterslade Park is in the village of Clyst Honiton, which is on the A30, three miles east of Exeter. Waterslade Park is signed off the A30 and is up a track on the edge of Exeter Airport. The pitch is railed and roped off and there are trainers' boxes but no cover.

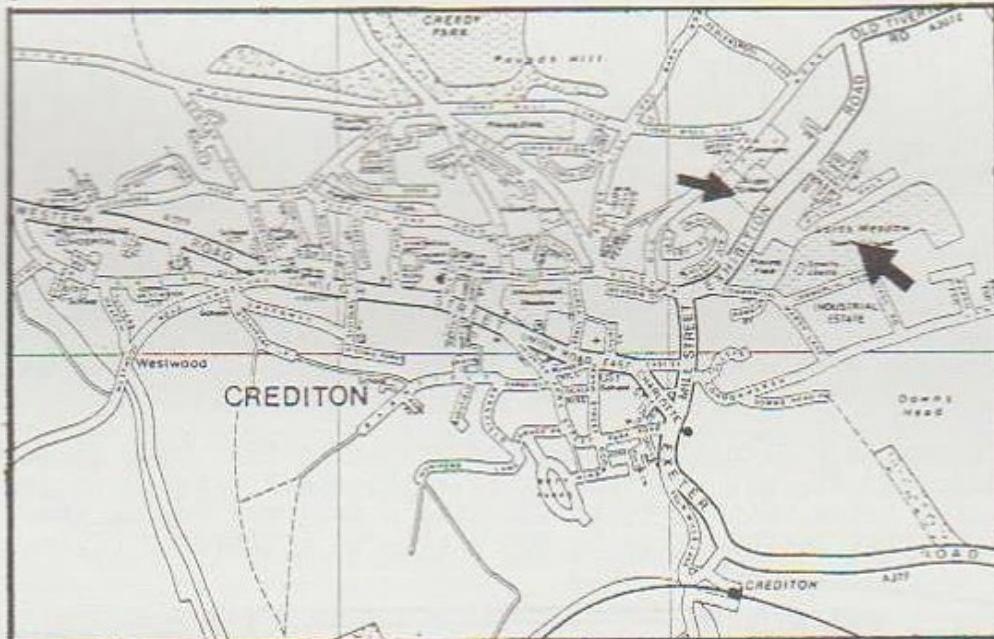
At one end of the pitch is a small car park and social club/dressing rooms block, which is a converted airfield building. A derelict airfield building stands at one side of the pitch, which does boast some good views of the airport.

About 11 miles east of Clyst Honiton is the famous lace-making town of Honiton, which lies beside the A30. Honiton Town play in the premier division, but at the time of writing are stranded at the bottom with just two wins to their credit! Their Mountbatten Park ground is easy to find. It is in Ottery Moor Lane, which is just off Exeter Road, which merges into the town's High Street. Mountbatten Park is also used for cricket, and although it has no cover, there are trainers' boxes and the pitch is railed off. There is a clubhouse and dressing rooms block behind one goal.

Cullompton Rangers' Speeds Meadow ground is very prone to flooding, despite a drain that has been dug beside the pitch. Rangers play in the premier division in the small Mid Devon town of Cullompton. Junction 28 of the M5 is on the edge of the town, and the ground is again easy to locate. Head for the town centre, staying on the B3181, which eventually becomes Exeter Road.

Turn off Exeter Road into Meadow Lane, which is signed for the Culm Valley Sports Centre. Speeds Meadow isn't part of it, and when you come to the end of Meadow Lane, turn right. Go down this road for a short distance until you see Cullompton Rangers signed on your left.

The ground is at the end of a track and although railed off, it has no cover. There is a car park, and large social club/dressing rooms block and there is hard standing along this side of the pitch. Speeds Meadow, which is beside the M5, boasts some good views of Cullompton.



The small Mid Devon village of Kentisbeare has a senior section side. The village is signed off the A373 Honiton to Cullompton road. Their ground can be found just before you enter the village, beside Kentisbeare House.

You can park outside the ground, which is also used for cricket. In one corner of it is a cricket pavilion, and in another are the football dressing rooms. There is cover for about 20 people beneath the overhang of the concrete dressing rooms' roof. Behind the goal at the road end of the pitch is a large net to stop the ball going out and onto it.

Uffculme is quite a large Mid Devon village, with a population of over 2,000 and a tourist attraction in a working mill. The football ground, the Magelake Hall Sports Ground, is on the edge of the village on the B3191 Culmstock to Tiverton road, approaching from the east. There is no cover but there are trainers' boxes, a car park and a smart dressing rooms/social club complex.

Many of the clubs in the higher echelons of the Devon and Exeter League run second or third teams in the lower divisions, and until the inception of the Great Mills Combination League, many Great Mills sides in the area ran their reserves in the Devon and Exeter League.

There are some clubs with very interesting names in the league, such as Pinhoe, who play in the senior section on a council pitch in the Pinhoe district of Exeter, and London and Manchester, who represent an insurance firm.

One of the prettiest grounds must be senior side Bickleigh's. The village of Bickleigh, about four miles south of Tiverton on the A3072, is itself a tourist attraction with a castle and mill, and the football ground has a lovely pavilion with a clock built into it.

The Exeter-based Express and Echo newspaper gives excellent coverage to the league, while the Tiverton Gazette and the Mid Devon Star also include details of some of the teams and their matches. The Mid Devon Star gives extensive coverage to Tiverton Town (more about Tivvy and their cross-town rivals Elmore in a future edition of Groundhopper).

Anyone planning a groundhopping trip into this area of Devon would be well advised to buy a good map because some of the minor roads are not at all good (the Kentisbeare to Uffculme road quickly comes to mind).

The secretary of the Devon FA is Mr CT Squirrel, who lives at 54 Paradise Road, Teignmouth, Devon (telephone 06267 2013).

RON JONES' PROGRAMME SCENE



BY THE MAN
WHO KNOWS HIS
NON-LEAGUE
PROGRAMMES

BROADBRIDGE HEATH from the Sussex County League Division Two offer a 16-page issue with ten pages of content inside the blue cover which includes match details. Line-ups take the traditional centre spread, while the text includes match reports, club notes, detailed statistics, with an unusual item being a trivia quiz. Very good value at 20p. When *CARTERTON TOWN* entertained Oxford United in the Oxfordshire Senior Cup, a 24-page programme was issued. The content starts with the Chairman's welcome, and then comes a page history of both clubs. Penpics follow, with the manager's report and line-ups taking up the centre pages, followed by a brief review of the home club's previous matches in this season's competition. Apart from the list of club officials, the remainder is a list of forthcoming club events and matches plus ads. Yellow paper is used for the cover. The *IMMINGHAM TOWN* programme has a 12-page insert inside the usual 24 pages of advertising and cover, with the same style of copying throughout in black ink on white paper giving it a somewhat 'homemade' look. The content includes the usual reports and results, with Immingham's results and line-ups on the same day in previous years also included. Club souvenirs such as badges and pennants are advertised as being available from the Clubhouse. With a cover price of 20p, there can be no complaints. Moving from the Northern Counties (East) to the Bank's Brewery League, *LYE TOWN* charge 25p for 12 static pages plus eight of new content for each match. Unusually, the review copy has no statistics at all, with two pages being devoted to B.B.League news, a page each spot-lighting Blakenhall and Oldbury, and a couple of pages giving the Editor's view on the Football League scene. So, a fair amount of general reading, but, if this is a typical issue, surprisingly little about Lye Town, with the blue on white glossy pages enhancing the issue.

In the North West Counties League, *MAGHULL* from Division 2 offer 20 pages of which much of the written content is provided by the league newsletter. Results and fixtures, goalscorers and a brief introduction to the visitors sum up the rest, with blue paper used on the cover. In the same division, *OLDHAM TOWN* also have 20 pages, with a blue on white cover. Again, the league newsletter is in evidence, with brief notes, a sports quiz, and player profile being the rest of the content.

Moving over to the Vaux Wearside League, *MARKE UNITED* include a 24-page programme in the 50p admission charge, with the cover being black printed on yellow paper. Two pages of club notes mainly review the club's progress during the year, while there is also a brief introduction to the visitors, a player profile, and a

Broadbridge Heath Football Club



CARTERTON TOWN

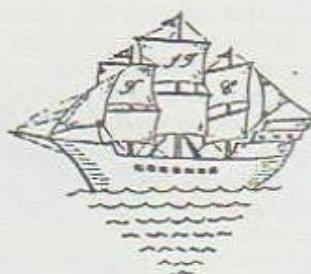
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SEASON 1988-1989



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25p

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

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GROUND: HALL LANE, MAGHULL

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FOOTBALL LEAGUE



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POOL COUNTY CONCENTRATION WINNERS,
WORL CONCENTRATION CHALLENGE CUP
WINNERS,
POOL CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS.

1934/5, 1946/7
1934/5,
1949,
1966/7,
1977/8
1979/80,
1980/1,
1985/6.

ROAD
IN

Welcome to OLDHAM TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB



CHIT DAY MAGAZINE

referee's quiz. Quite a good issue for a club at this level. In the South Midlands League, PITSTONE & IVINGHOE published a 28-pager for their home leg of the League Challenge Trophy Final against Welwyn Garden City. The 12 static pages include a red and black glossy cover, with the content enhanced by the importance of the game, for example including pen pictures of both teams as well as the usual notes, league tables, results, etc. Nevertheless, an impressive issue to mark the occasion. In the United Counties League, RAMSEY TOWN have a 12 page issue on glossy paper throughout, with the cover, including match details. Notes, match reports and fixtures as well as non-league chit-chat appear inside with back page line-ups.

In the past, Sussex County League SELSEY have never been noted for their quality programme, but the current 48 page issue is a remarkable transformation. Printed by the club's sponsors, it is typeset throughout and is filled with information. There are reports on all the club's sides, down to junior level, a page of county league news, two pages rounding up the Sussex clubs involvement in the previous week's FA Vase matches and another page on the RUR Cup. The day's other league fixtures are listed, along with detailed managers notes, and a feature on Brighton by coach Martin Hinchelwood. A map is reproduced showing the ground location for the next away match. With the cover showing match details and the programme being free with admission, it really is an excellent issue, both for content and design.

Lastly to the Green King Spartan League where WANDSWORTH & NORWOOD offer a regular 28 pages inside a red card cover. Again, plenty of information is included with a league results grid and list of the other Spartan League grounds as well as the usual results and tables. A page of famous quotes, player profile and press reports add to the reading, while the club notes include 'a welcome to any groundhoppers' for this Tuesday evening 6.15pm kick off v. Thamesmead Town.

SELSEY FOOTBALL CLUB

PEACEHAVEN

ARSKE UNITED F.C.



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KICK-OFF 1-30 PM

BADGERS SET



with
TOBY JACKSON

25 Tulip Court, Nursery Road, Pinner. Middlesex. HA5 2AP.

Welcome again to BADGERS SET. After my look at the badges of the GM Vauxhall Conference clubs last month, I intend this time to devote my column to publicising the sole club in this country that caters for the hobby of badge collecting and to say a little about how the interest developed. My December 1987 column covered the origins and method of production, but said little about the growth in enthusiasm for collecting that has multiplied dramatically since the earlier part of the decade.

Badge collecting is now the most popular hobby amongst football enthusiasts after programme collecting. In this country enamel badges date back to the start of the century, the oldest dated badge being issued by the London Schools Association in 1900. Badges fall into two main categories: those issued by Football Associations and those by Football Clubs. Football Association badges are first mentioned in the 1913-14 cash accounts of the F.A. which refer to the sum of £265 2s 5d being spent on medals and badges. It is thought that the badges were made for newly elected F.A. Council members. The tradition has been carried on over the years with members becoming proud members of hallmarked gold badges.

F.A. Steward badges were issued since the first Wembley Cup Final in 1923 on a bi-annual basis by the F.A. to officiating stewards. The badges have become popular collectors' items. County Associations similarly used to issue badges to council members although the practice ceased in most quarters as stocks dwindled and production costs rose. Although over 40 counties have issued such badges, it took one avid collector 15 years to amass 25 different ones so it is no easy task!

By far the most common badges are those issued through football clubs and Supporters' Associations. The earliest known club badge is that of Leeds City FC who were expelled from the Football League in 1919, but there are not many known badges from the depression era of the 1920s. The best known badges of the 1930s were football-shaped and made by W.H. Miller in Birmingham. It is reputed that in 1932 they were sold in Woolworths for 1d each with 62 different club badges from the four home countries available. More clubs were offered as the decade progressed using the same stereotype.

The period 1946-52 was a boom time for new badges as many football and supporters' clubs were re-formed after the Second World War. Many clubs, right down to village-green level, produced their own badges for the first and in many cases for the only time. Clubs now began to use the heraldic crests of their towns or cities, and badges took on a much more colourful dimension. Button-hole fittings for gentlemen and brooch-pins for ladies evolved!

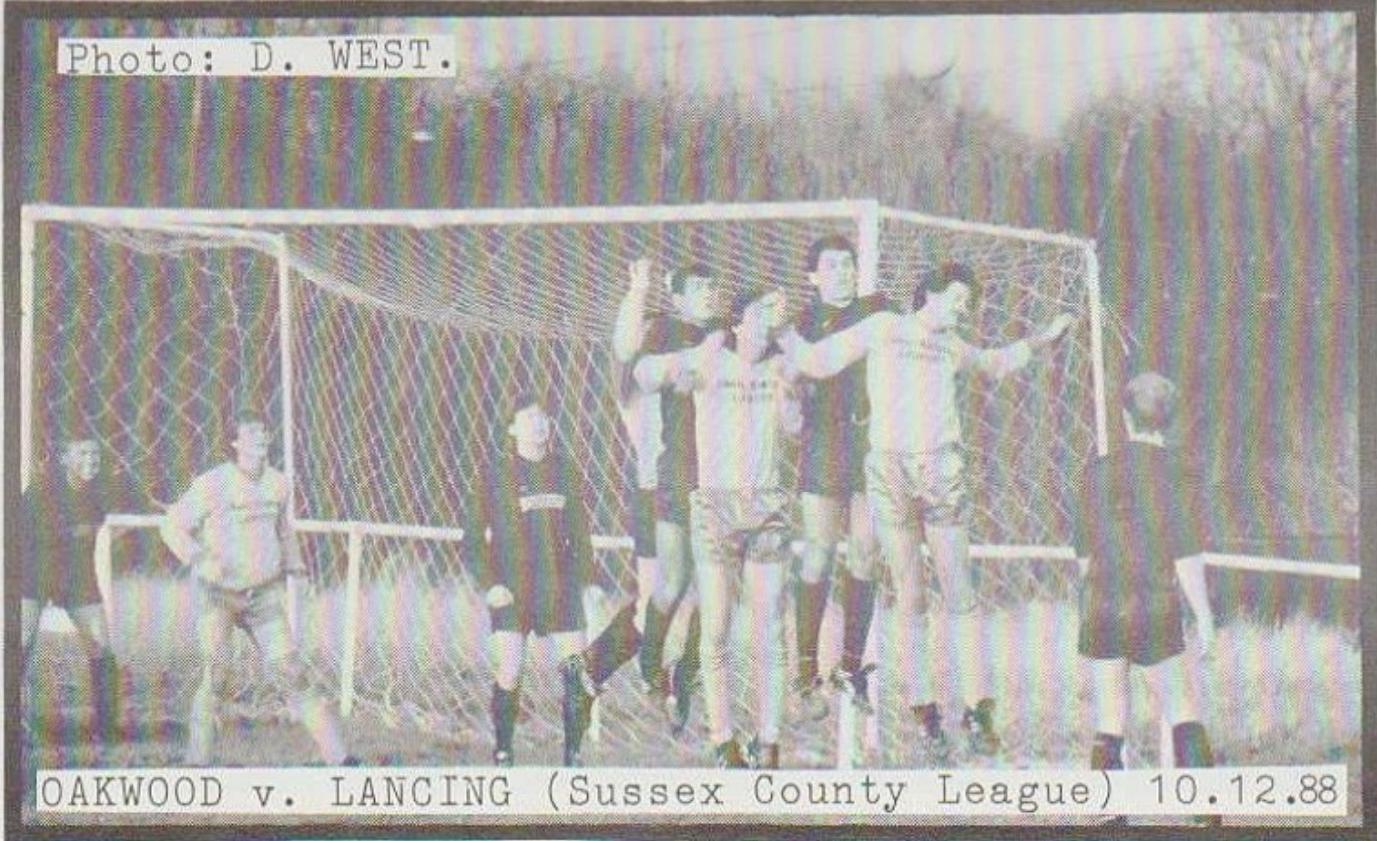
A steady flow of badges continued to be made throughout the 1960's and 70's but it was not a productive time for collectors as many badges were issued to only players and officials, and Supporters' clubs insisted on enrolment before releasing a prized badge. With badges growing in popularity, street vendors started to appear with badges (often "pirate" versions) outside larger grounds and dealers advertised in football magazines.

Association was formed in 1980 by badge collector and enthusiast Mike Woolnough. In 1982 Mike decided to concentrate more on the production side and Barry White took over the reins as Secretary with the club evolving into its present format as the Association of Football Badge Collectors (AFBC) under which name it still flourishes. The membership of 99 members in 1982 has since doubled with many overseas members widening the possibilities of collection material. The AFBC's objectives are to bring together fellow enthusiasts from around the world and to encourage the production of new enamel club badges, in turn helping members to add to their collections. The AFBC has been directly responsible for various badges being produced for clubs and its members like myself can take advantage of a monthly newsletter to advertise their new productions. The newsletter supplies a useful market place for exchanges and sales, and includes features on rare badges unearthed, new badges on offer, my own "Non-League Scene" column, a "Badge of the Year" poll, and regular features on Foreign and Irish badges, as well as members' articles on matters of interest.

An annual meeting of members provides the chance to make new friends and view others' collections, whilst various members host smaller mini-meetings throughout the country. A catalogue featuring over 1700 British badge illustrations was brought out by Mike Woolnough in 1983 to act as a source of reference to assist collectors, and Mike updated this in 1987 with a new edition showing some 3000 badges. This superb Directory is still on sale at £7.00 plus 70p (Overseas £1) postage from Mike at 131 Chatteris Avenue, Romford, Essex. RM3 8JY. Annual membership of the AFBC costs £6.00 (£3.00 juniors & OAPs) and £9.00 for overseas collectors. Twelve self-addressed gummed labels are required for dispatch of the newsletters. Applications should be addressed to Peter Gosling at 4 Renshaw Close, High Green, Sheffield. S30 4FB.

Beginners to the hobby of badge collecting are welcome to write to me for my current lists of over 150 Non-League, a healthy proportion of the Football & Scottish League badges and even some Foreign and non-current "Collectors Corner" items. Make a date in your diary too for Saturday, June 3rd when I shall be running a badge stall at the 15th International Programme Fair at the Hotel Russell, Russell Square, London W.C.1. (11.15 am to 3.45 pm). There has never been a better time to start collecting!

Photo: D. WEST.



OAKWOOD v. LANCING (Sussex County League) 10.12.88



Nantwich defender (light shirt) clearing in a 0-0 draw at Bacup Borough in the NW Counties League on 5.11.88. Photo: S. JACKSON.



Wayne Peacock causes panic in the home defence, as Hastings Town win 3-2 at Sittingbourne in the FA Cup 3.9.88. Photo: D.R. WEST.

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SPOT the GROUND

— COMPETITION —

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We had an excellent response to last month's competition, with one of our highest number of entries since the competition started. And, as usual, nearly all of you got the answer correct. We cannot fool any of you - not even for one month so it means that £5 is again on its way to a lucky winner.

Can't you all get it wrong just one month so that we can offer a TEN pound prize the following month? That way it will make us sound more generous!

Oh well, maybe that's asking a lot especially as every competition has been won so far at the first attempt. Just one of these we'll catch you all out!

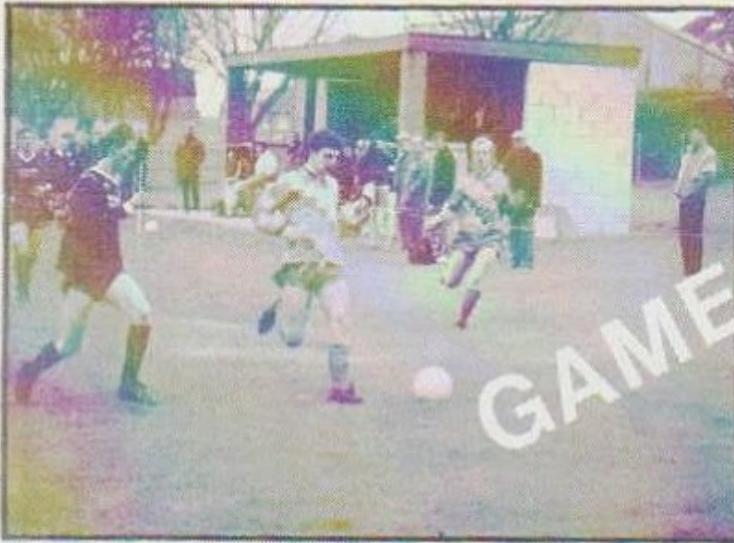
Now onto last month's game. As already mentioned, the number of entries was most encouraging, but there is only one winner and he is:- MR G CLARKE, 8 WHEAT-EAR DRIVE, REDCAR, CLEVELAND, TS10 4NQ. Congratulations, Mr. Clarke, your £5 prize will be on its way to you in the next few days.

This month, we have another competition as usual, and the rules are the same as always. Just study the two photos below of a non-league ground, and by looking at the six clues, try to work out which ground is being featured. But remember - to throw you slightly off the scent, one of the clues is false, and you have to work out which one it is. That clue number has to be included in your answer to become a valid entry. (The false clue to last month's competition incidentally was No.5). The prize money starts at £5 and goes up in multiples of £5 per month if not won until it reaches £100.

Once you have worked out the answer, just write down on a postcard or on the back of a sealed envelope the name of the club featured and the false clue number, including your name and address, and send it to:- SPOT THE GROUND COMPETITION, GAME NO.12, GROUNDHOPPER MAGAZINE, 439 MERTON ROAD, WANDSWORTH, LONDON, SW18 5LB.

All entries MUST reach us by no later than Wednesday 17th May 1989. All the correct entries will be placed in a hat, and a winner drawn by the editor on Thursday 18th May. Answers and winner announced in the July issue.

As always, there will be a brand new "Spot the Ground" competition next month.



Here are your SIX clues as to which club is featured this month. But remember - one of these clues is incorrect. Good luck!

- 1). This coastal town club compete in the Sussex County League.
- 2). Senior status was only assured after the club successfully appealed to both the District Council for permission to enclose the ground and the County League at their AGM who accepted them.
- 3). The team's first-team colours are all-red.
- 4). This club were founded in 1919.
- 5). They are located approximately 60 miles from London.
- 6). They were founder members of the Sussex County League Division Two in 1952 and were promoted as runners-up in 1964.

Got it yet? We think it is rather easy this month, so we should receive sackfuls of correct answers again. But don't forget to include your name and address with the answers, and they MUST reach us by Wednesday 17th May 1989.

Groundhopper Magazine General Guidance Notes

1. The main aim of the Groundhopper Magazine and the jointly run Groundhoppers Club is to promote Non-League football and to give its subscribers and club members the opportunity of contributing in the form of articles, letters and photographs, etc.
2. Membership of the Groundhoppers Club is FREE. To join, write to Steve Pettit (Membership Secretary) at the address on the inside front cover, enclosing full details such as your name, address, groundhopping interests, etc. Also, please enclose a s.a.e. for the return of your membership card.
3. Once you become a member you are entitled to certain privileges as outlined in the club literature detailed elsewhere.
4. As a club it will be financed in association with Groundhopper Magazine, and all members will receive an annual statement of accounts at the A.G.M. on a date to be arranged, probably on the day of a convention at a non-league venue to be decided. Full details will appear in the magazine.
5. There will be conventions, organised trips to grounds and fundraising events throughout the year, jointly arranged by the Groundhopper Magazine and Groundhoppers Club.
6. Groundhopper Magazine is published EVERY month throughout the year, with current subscription rates shown on the inside front cover. Contained in each issue are full details of all Club events such as news of conventions, etc.
7. If sending photographs for inclusion in the magazine, please note that there may be a delay in returning them if more than six are sent at once. The process for preparing them for publication is expensive, and we can therefore only use photos for one issue at a time. Please ALWAYS indicate when sending photos whether you would like them returned or whether we can retain them.
8. The magazine is usually despatched on the 15th of each month, subject to copy deadlines being met with our printers. You should receive your magazine about two weeks prior to cover date. (ie; January issue received 16th or 17th December).
9. We cannot be held responsible for material being lost in the post when being returned to originator after use (such as photos, etc.)
10. The magazine is available on SUBSCRIPTION ONLY. When you are coming to the end of your subscription we will send you a letter reminding you that it is time to renew, and will enclose a new subscription form.
11. A joint Groundhoppers Club and Magazine Committee has been formed, with the purpose of helping to organise events, help with fund-raising, etc. If YOU would like to join please write to Steve King for full details.
12. A limited number of back issues of Groundhopper Magazine are available from Ron Jones, 24 Poplar Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 3JR. For current availability please check elsewhere in this month's issue.
13. For copy dates for this year's issues, please see elsewhere for full details, which also includes despatch dates for the magazine.
14. Please give the magazine maximum publicity whenever possible, and support us at the Annual General Meeting and at conventions and all organised events.

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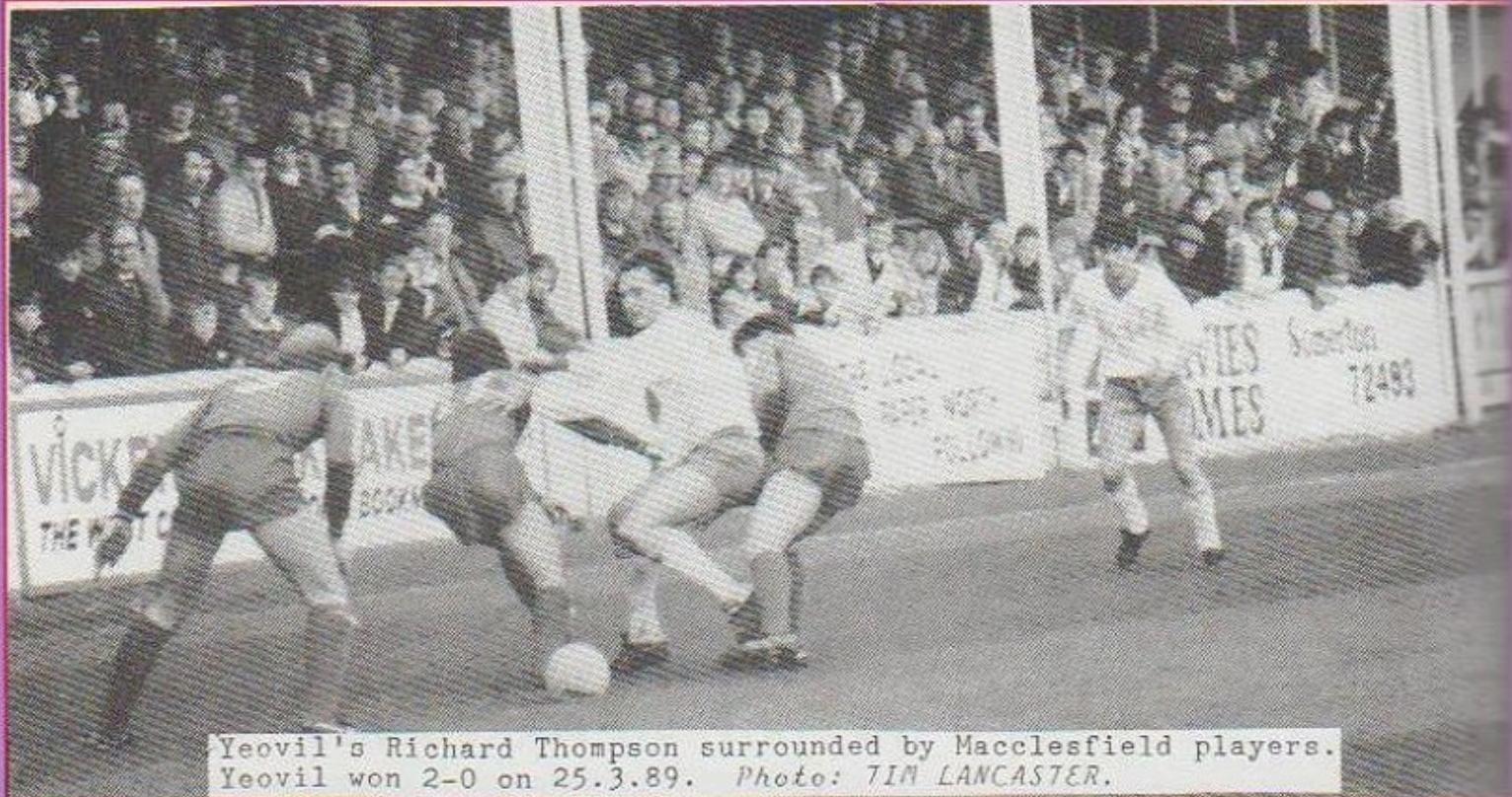
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SHOTS



Yeovil's Richard Thompson surrounded by Macclesfield players.
Yeovil won 2-0 on 25.3.89. Photo: TIM LANCASTER.



Croydon's John Bailey can't stop Slough Town taking the lead in their 4-0 win at Wexham Park on 4.2.89. Photo: D.R. WEST.



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